

Hartford



Courant

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT



A pedestrian bridge that connects Travelers Cos. buildings in downtown Hartford is decorated with the insurer's signature umbrellas. Travelers is one of three major employers planning a broad-based return to the office in the next six weeks. **MARK MIRKO PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT**

DiMassa, wife part of new charges

Unsealed indictment raises total aid money ex-lawmaker is accused of stealing to \$1M

By Edmund H. Mahony
Hartford Courant

Federal prosecutors on Friday unsealed a new indictment against former state Rep. Michael DiMassa that raises the total amount of federal grant money he is accused of stealing to more than \$1 million and brings new theft and conspiracy charges against his wife and two associates.

DiMassa, who also held a variety of positions in the West Haven city government, and his business associate John Bernardo had been charged previously with stealing more than \$600,000 in federal COVID relief money distributed to West Haven, but are both named in the new indictment.

Also charged in the indictment were DiMassa's wife, Lauren Knox, and John Trasacco, another business associate.

Trasacco is accused of creating two dummy corporations, L&H company and JIL Sanitation Services, that he and

Turn to DiMassa, Page 2



Ex-state Rep. Michael DiMassa leaves the U.S. Courthouse in October. He is accused of misuse of COVID-19 relief funds. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

Dozens of districts set to drop mask requirement

Pushback has been mild as many schools plan to make them optional on March 1

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

Even though Connecticut's biggest school systems — Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, Waterbury and Stamford — will still require face masks after Feb. 28, dozens of other school districts will let them become optional.

While a handful including Bloomfield and Norwich won't decide until next week, there was a vast wave of communities this week agreeing to abandon the mandate. Glastonbury, West Hartford, Newington, Southington, Vernon, Enfield, Farmington, Manchester, Canton and Suffield were among them.

They've declared students and staff may decide individually whether to wear masks starting March 1.

There has been mild pushback from mask advocates in a few towns, but nothing remotely like the organized, high-volume protests by anti-mandate parents and politicians over the past year.

With the statewide mandate expiring Feb. 28, each of the state's nearly 170 municipal and regional school systems is deciding individually what to do after that.

The answer so far appears to be that mandatory masks in schools soon will be a

Turn to Masks, Page 2

Grand reopening

Major downtown Hartford employers expect a long-delayed, broad-based return of workers to offices in next six weeks

By Kenneth R. Gosselin
Hartford Courant

Thousands of office workers will be returning to downtown Hartford in the next six weeks — many, for at least part of the work week — as three major corporate employers prepare a broad-based reopening of their offices in the city.

The decisions come as the wave of the coronavirus omicron variant and resulting infections appear to be subsiding in Connecticut and across the country.

Each of the three companies — Travelers Cos., Aetna Inc., and The Hartford Financial Services Group, all with a major presence in and around downtown — had delayed a return of workers at least twice.

Travelers now has set March 14, while Aetna expects that move to be a day later, on March 15. The Hartford has targeted April 4.

A return is good news for downtown businesses and shops that depend on workers and corporate functions for a major chunk of their business. The reopening of offices also will add street-level vibrancy that has been sorely lacking throughout the pandemic.

"We're excited to see it, and the whole world is hoping that this time it sticks," said David Griggs, president and chief

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The Hartford Financial Services Group employs thousands at its headquarters in Hartford's Asylum Hill.

"We're excited to see it, and the whole world is hoping that this time it sticks."

— David Griggs, president and chief executive of the MetroHartford Alliance, the regional chamber of commerce

Biden: Putin has decided to invade

Ukrainian rebels begin to evacuate civilians to Russia

Yuras Karmanau and Aamer Madhani
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — President Joe Biden said Friday he's "convinced" that Russian President Vladimir Putin has decided to launch a further invasion in Ukraine, including an assault on its capital, Kyiv, as tensions spiked along the militarized border with attacks that the West called "false-flag" operations meant to establish a pretext for invasion.

On Friday, a humanitarian convoy was hit by shelling and pro-Russian rebels evacuated civilians from the conflict zone. A car bombing hit the eastern city of Donetsk, but no casualties were reported.

After weeks of saying the U.S. wasn't

Turn to Ukraine, Page 3

A man lights a candle Friday at a memorial dedicated to people killed by security forces during protests in February 2014 in Kyiv, Ukraine, that forced out the Russian-backed president and led to the formation of a new government. **EFREM LUKATSKY/AP**



Lawmakers unveil children's mental health initiative

In response to a deepening crisis of children's behavioral health in Connecticut, a bipartisan group of state lawmakers Friday unveiled a comprehensive bill aimed at expanding support for mental health care and enhancing preventive services. **Connecticut, Page 1**

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Masks

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thing of the past.

“The reality now is that the Department of Public Health has stated that in many places in Connecticut, it is the right time, and safe, to move away from mandatory masking,” West Hartford Superintendent Thomas Moore said in a statement to parents.

“With high vaccination numbers, and with cases plummeting in our schools ... as well as the immunity gained by so many having been exposed to omicron, March should be a time when West Hartford public schools can move to optional mask wearing,” he wrote.

Darien, Ridgefield, Greenwich and others this week cited similar reasons for reaching the same conclusion.

Some towns will wait until next week to decide, partly in order to weigh guidance issued late Friday by the state public health department. The guidance consists of two documents: a list of considerations for districts in deciding whether to keep masks and other COVID safety protocol and guidance “to assist with transitioning to a model for COVID-19 management that aligns with our state’s general public health approach to the routine management of respiratory viral diseases.”

Schools boards in Bloomfield and Norwich will decide the issue at meetings Feb. 24, and Norwalk — the sixth-biggest district in



Anti-mask and anti-vaccine protesters gather outside the State Capitol on the first day of the 2022 legislative session. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

Connecticut — this week began surveying parents and staff to find out their preferences before it decides. East Windsor is also surveying parents.

Most districts, however, didn’t seek out public comment, and instead simply let their superintendents issue written announcements. Newington, Canton, Manchester and Farmington were

among the ones that took that approach this week.

Educators generally cited the state’s plunging COVID-19 infection rate and relatively high immunization rate along with a steep decrease in the number of cases in their own schools.

While they don’t publicly speak of it, education officials across the state have also been under

relentless — occasionally vitriolic — pressure from parents’ groups demanding an end to what they portray as an infringement on rights as well as an actual harm to children.

Words like “tyranny” and “child abuse” are common at Unmask Our Kids CT rallies, and Gov. Ned Lamont is frequently portrayed as a monarch or dictator. Through-

out the school year, that campaign has been increasingly directed at local school boards, occasionally forcing meetings to be abruptly ended.

“It’s not just the mask issue, but it’s one of them that seem to have created a level of incivility in public discourse where board members are feeling literally threatened,” said Patrice McCarthy, deputy director of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education.

CABE is co-sponsoring a training workshop this year on “How to lead a public meeting during contentious times,” something McCarthy said it has never needed to do before.

“Some board members are getting threats through social media,” she said. “Social media can exacerbate the lack of civil discourse.”

On a Facebook page for Farmington mothers, several posters became upset late this week after hearing that a choral instructor had announced that chorus activities would still require face masks. But by Friday, the controversy appeared to be groundless: The school administration said masks would be optional for all school activities.

Only in the largest urban districts will masks still be required, and several of them plan to phase out the mandate later in March or April. All school districts have emphasized that they must adhere to federal regulations that still require masks for school buses and Head Start programs.

DiMassa

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DiMassa allegedly used to bill West Haven for non-existent COVID-related supplies and services. Among other things, federal prosecutors said the two billed the city for cleaning a school building that the indictment said “had been vacant and abandoned for years.”

The indictment accuses Knox of conspiring with DiMassa to steal about \$148,000 for their own use from money set aside by West Haven for a youth violence prevention program. They are accused of creating phony

invoices for in-home counseling, cleaning supplies, special needs hourly services, Wi-Fi assistance for low and moderate income families, counseling services, support group supplies and other services.

Federal prosecutors allege that when Knox submitted the vouchers for payment, she deposited a portion of the money in a personal account. Over the period of the indictment, from July 2020 until or about October 2020, prosecutors said she collected 16 checks while providing no services to West Haven.

The indictment lays out the conspiracy that previously charged against DiMassa and Bernardo,

when they were first arrested in October and November. The two are accused of creating another phony business, Compass Investment Group, and using it as a vehicle to steal about \$637,000 in federal money allocated to West Haven to defray the costs associated with the corona virus pandemic.

Federal prosecutors said the two billed the city for a long list of services that included “as COVID-19 Legal + Lobbying + Site work for COVID-19 Clinic, Consulting Service-Legislative Review Executive Orders — COVID-19, Consulting Service-Suppoli Staff Services, Monitors/Security Site (April 2021-May 2021), and Consult-

ing Service Lobbying Service — COVID-19 Federal.” In reality, the indictment charges, the two did nothing for he city.

The four are charged, collectively, with conspiracy, fraud and aiding and abetting.

DiMassa and Bernardo pleaded not guilty during a remote teleconference at U.S. District Court in New Haven. Trasacco and Knox were presented in court in New Haven in person and will enter pleas at a later date. All four are free on bail.

Over a dozen years, DiMassa held positions in West Haven City Hall that included administrative assistant to the West Haven City Council, clerk of the West Haven

City Council, assistant to the West Haven mayor, and assistant to the West Haven registrar of voters.

In late 2020, West Haven’s Democratic Mayor Nancy Rossi designated him as one of two city officials empowered to approve spending on COVID-19 issues.

Prosecutors and FBI agents have said that some of the thefts associated with the Compass investment group appear to correspond with DiMassa’s purchase of tens of thousands of dollars in gambling chips at the Mohegan Sun casino.

After his arrest, DiMassa was stripped of his legislative committee and leadership assignments and resigned from the General Assembly.

Hartford Courant

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Our Circulation Customer Service is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY

860-525-5555

Subscriptions, missed delivery or missing sections, vacation stops, billing questions. For same-day redelivery, please call before 10 a.m. daily, 11:30 a.m. Sunday. All numbers are 860 area code unless otherwise noted.

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LOTTERY
Friday, Feb. 18

PLAY3 DAY	PLAY4 DAY
5 0 7 WB: 6	2 1 9 7 WB: 9

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

THURSDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT
8 1 6 WB: 2

PLAY4 NIGHT
7 7 6 4 WB: 6

CASH 5
3 5 13 20 22

LUCKY FOR LIFE
9 29 33 38 41 LB: 1

Tuesday's est. Lotto jackpot: \$1 million
Tonight's est. Powerball jackpot: \$31 million



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Hartford Courant
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Daily Press
The Virginian-Pilot

Orlando Sentinel

SunSentinel

FROM PAGE ONE

Policy shift places migrants in limbo

Change meant to help overwhelmed officials at border

By Eileen Sullivan
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — A Haitian couple and their young son were among thousands of immigrants whom U.S. officials decided to allow entry through the southwest border last summer — part of a record-setting surge in unauthorized crossings over the past year.

Beginning last spring, immigration officials were so overwhelmed that they admitted tens of thousands of migrants while issuing them a new document that did not include the typical hearing dates or identification numbers recognized in the immigration court system. The change sped up the process of releasing them into the country, but also made it much harder for the new arrivals to start applying for asylum — and for the government to track them.

Months later, the government has not been able to complete the processing started at the border.

President Joe Biden pledged as a candidate to fix the country's broken immigration system, a campaign mantra that resonated with many voters after the harsh policies of former President Donald Trump. But over Biden's first year in office, his administration's response to the surge in migration has consisted largely of crisis-driven reactions.

Migrants were caught crossing the southwest border illegally more than



Thousands of migrants camped out last fall under a bridge in Del Rio, Texas. **VERONICA G. CARDENAS/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

2 million times between December 2020 and December 2021, the largest number since at least 1960. They came not just from Central America and the Caribbean but from around the world, many fleeing persecution and economic hardship with the expectation that Biden would be more welcoming.

Although migrants were expelled in just over half the cases, more than 400,000 of them were released into the country for a variety of reasons during Biden's first year in office.

Of those, more than 94,000 were released through the sped-up process — a streamlined version of a longtime practice that critics call “catch and release,” in which those who are apprehended at the border are released from custody pending their immigration

court proceedings.

These migrants were instructed to register with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement within 60 days to complete the process the border officials started. But in some parts of the country, local ICE offices were overwhelmed and unable to give them appointments. So the Haitian family and other new arrivals have spent months trying in vain to check in with ICE and initiate their court cases.

“It was a quick fix — ‘Deal with them later,’” said Evangeline Chan, an immigration lawyer in New York. “But they have not been able to.”

Human rights advocates say the change has made it harder for those seeking asylum to get by while they wait to be officially recognized in the immigration system. Republicans, in the

meantime, have pounced on the Biden administration for releasing immigrants without legal status into the country with even less ability to keep track of them.

“Those who cross our border illegally should be detained and deported, not released into the interior of our country on an unenforceable promise to reappear,” 80 Republican House members wrote in a letter to Immigration and Customs Enforcement earlier this month. “It is nothing short of reckless.”

Toward the end of last year, the government started issuing a different document to many of the migrants it allowed in, instructing them to report to an ICE office within 15 days instead of 60. But that, too, did not provide a court date or official identification number.

As of the end of January,

nearly 33,000 immigrants who were issued such documents had missed their deadline to check in and start their proceedings in immigration court, according to an ICE official speaking on condition of anonymity. It is impossible to know how many have tried to check in with ICE to get court cases started and how many have chosen not to.

Hopeful that immigration will prove a potent campaign issue, Republicans are blaming Biden for the sharp increase in migrants at the border. His response to the surge, they say, has only made things worse.

“DHS was forced to deal with an unmitigated disaster, and notices to report was one of the desperate policies it implemented trying to cope,” Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., said in a statement. The streamlined document, known as a notice to report, he added, “just exacerbated the problem.”

Some immigration advocates agree.

“This ... situation is a huge mess that everyone is trying to navigate right now,” said Emily Haverkamp, an immigration lawyer and expert on asylum policies.

The potential for complications with the expedited processing was not lost on some members of the Biden administration, according to several current and former administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity. But some officials in the Department of Homeland Security argued that border officials could not have handled the surge of migrants without the expedited option to release

them into the country.

The department has launched an operation to mail those who were processed at the border the faster way a summons to appear in immigration court, but it has not reached all of them.

After setting off last June on a treacherous journey from Chile — where they had relocated to years earlier — the Haitian family made it to Texas in August, where border officials released them without a court summons and told them to report to an immigration office once they reached Miami, their destination.

When they did so, the office was closed, operating on a reduced schedule because of the pandemic. When they tried to register online, they were told they would not get an appointment to finish their paperwork and receive official identification numbers, known as alien numbers, until 2032. When they wrote to an ICE email address, the automated response said the agency needed the family's alien numbers.

“It's a vicious cycle,” the husband said through a translator.

The Haitian couple, like most new immigrants, are not authorized to work, making it impossible to earn an honest living; they are residing with other Haitian immigrants in the Miami region. They tried for months to enroll their son in kindergarten, facing bureaucratic roadblocks at every turn. They cannot afford a lawyer to help them find a way to comply with the government.

Offices

from Page 1

executive of the MetroHartford Alliance, the regional chamber of commerce.

Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin said the city is thrilled to have the employees of some of Hartford's biggest companies return to their offices, “and we look forward to an active spring and summer as activity of all kinds comes back to the capital city.”

“Most of our major employers have been eager to bring their employees back for quite some time. And because of the series of variants that hit us, there were some delays and false starts, but I think, in general, there's an overwhelming sense that it's time to recover a great deal of normalcy.”

The reopening comes as the city seeks to jump-start revitalization dealt a serious setback in the pandemic. The city has partnered with the alliance in selecting the first recipients of a grant program seeking to fill vacant storefronts. The “Hart Lift” program draws on the city's pandemic relief funds aimed at spurring economic recovery.

Many of first grants were for restaurants.

“To the restaurateurs that are in the process of investing in our downtown core, it's the promise of their investment,” Griggs said. “It means everything to them.”

The alliance said it would be working with large



Hartford-based Aetna Inc., owned by pharmacy giant CVS Health Corp., says workers will return to the office in a “hybrid” work schedule. **AP**

employers to again make them familiar the dining and entertainment options.

“So, we will we be working with them to do everything we can to make these new restaurants known to not only the leadership but to the thousands of people who work for them that might not have been downtown in two years,” Griggs said.

Griggs also praised the downtown businesses that have slogged through two very tough years.

The reopening of offices is

tempered somewhat by how the pandemic has changed the workplace from primarily five days a week in the office to work weeks spent partly in the office and partly at home.

Hartford-based health insurer Aetna, owned by pharmacy giant CVS Health Corp., employs about 5,000 in Connecticut, the majority of them in Hartford, and said most of its employees would work on a partly remote schedule.

“Most corporate employees will spend two to three

days a week at one of our office locations and work virtually on the other days as part of our new hybrid work format,” a CVS spokeswoman said in a statement.

At The Hartford, which employs thousands at its headquarters campus in Hartford's Asylum Hill, senior leaders will report to office March 21.

The property-casualty insurer has said it would expand the hybrid working arrangement that was in place before the pandemic.

Employees at The Hartford who worked remotely before the pandemic will continue that arrangement. Those who worked in the office full-time will move to a hybrid model, splitting time between home and office.

“Employee health and safety continues to guide our decisions as we work through this dynamic situation,” The Hartford said in a statement Friday. “As we have said all along, we will continue to make decisions and take action based on guidance

from public-health experts.”

Travelers, which employs 7,000 in and around downtown Hartford, said some employees already have come into the office on a voluntary basis. But when a more broad-based return begins next month, there will be the option of a hybrid work arrangement.

“We'll also be continuing to take into account the guidance from federal and state health officials to ensure the safety of our employees,” a Travelers spokeswoman said in a statement.

The changes in the workplace in the aftermath of the pandemic also continue to raise questions about how much office space will be needed in the future in an increasing hybrid workplace.

Griggs said residential development is more than likely to play an increasingly bigger role in downtowns like Hartford that were once largely the domain of offices.

Hartford has added 2,000 apartments in and around the downtown area in the last decade, many in the conversion of old office buildings

But still more residential units are needed, Griggs said, to offset fewer employees being in the office a full work week.

“The shrinking office footprint continues all around America,” Griggs said.

Kenneth R. Gosselin can be reached at kgosselin@courant.com.

Ukraine

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sure if Putin had made the final decision to launch a widespread invasion, Biden said that assessment had changed, citing the Americans's “significant intelligence capability.”

“As of this moment I'm convinced he's made the decision,” Biden said. “We have reason to believe that.” He reiterated that it could occur in the “coming days.”

Meanwhile, the Kremlin declared massive nuclear drills to flex its military muscle, and Putin pledged to protect Russia's national interests against what it sees as encroaching Western threats. U.S. and European leaders, meanwhile, grasped for ways to keep the peace and Europe's post-Cold War security order.

Biden reiterated his

threat of massive economic and diplomatic sanctions against Russia if it does invade, and pressed Putin to rethink his course of action. He said the U.S. and its Western allies were more united than ever to ensure Russia pays a price for the invasion.

While Putin held out the possibility of diplomacy, a cascade of developments this week have further exacerbated East-West tensions and fueled war worries. This week's actions have fed those concerns: U.S. and European officials, focused on an estimated 150,000 Russian troops posted around Ukraine's borders, warn the long-simmering separatist conflict in eastern Ukraine could provide the spark for a broader attack.

As a further indication that the Russians continue preparations for a potential

invasion, a U.S. defense official said an estimated 40% to 50% of the ground forces deployed in the vicinity of the Ukrainian border have moved into attack positions nearer the border. That shift has been under way for about a week, other officials have said, and does not necessarily mean Putin has decided to begin an invasion. The defense official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal U.S. military assessments.

The official also said the number of Russian ground units known as battalion tactical groups deployed in the border area had grown to between 120 and 125, up from 83 two weeks ago. Each battalion tactical group has between 750 and 1,000 soldiers.

Vice President Kamala Harris said the U.S. still hopes Russia will de-esca-

late but is ready to hit it with tough sanctions in case of an attack. U.S. leaders this week issued their most dire warnings yet that Moscow could order an invasion of Ukraine any day.

“We remain, of course, open to and desirous of diplomacy ... but we are also committed, if Russia takes aggressive action, to ensure there will be severe consequence,” Harris said at the annual Munich Security Conference.

While Russia snubbed this year's conference, lines of communication remain open: The U.S. and Russian defense chiefs spoke Friday, and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin called for de-escalation, the return of Russian forces surrounding Ukraine to their home bases, and a diplomatic resolution, according to the Pentagon. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Russian

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov agreed to meet next week.

Immediate worries focused on eastern Ukraine, where Ukrainian forces have been fighting pro-Russia rebels since 2014 in a conflict that has killed some 14,000 people.

A bombing struck a car outside the main government building in the major eastern city of Donetsk, according to an Associated Press journalist there. The head of the separatists' forces, Denis Sinenkov, said the car was his, the Interfax news agency reported.

There were no reports of casualties and no independent confirmation of the circumstances of the blast.

Shelling and shooting are common along the line that separates Ukrainian forces and the rebels, but targeted violence is unusual in rebel-held cities like Donetsk.

However, the explosion and the announced evacuations were in line with U.S. warnings of so-called false-flag attacks that Russia would use to justify an invasion.

Separatists in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions that form the industrial heartland known as the Donbas said they are evacuating civilians to Russia. The announcement appeared to be part of Moscow's efforts to counter Western warnings of a Russian invasion and cast Ukraine as the aggressor.

Metadata from two videos posted by the separatists announcing the evacuation show that the files were created two days ago, The Associated Press confirmed. U.S. authorities have alleged that Kremlin plans included prerecorded videos as part of a disinformation campaign.

Daunte Wright's killer gets 2 years

Black man's family upset over white officer's sentence

By Amy Forliti, Steve Karnowski and Tammy Webber
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Kim Potter, the former suburban Minneapolis police officer who said she confused her handgun for her Taser when she fatally shot Daunte Wright, was sentenced Friday to two years in prison. Wright's family denounced the sentence as too lenient and accused the judge of giving more consideration to the white officer than the Black victim.

Potter was convicted in December of first- and second-degree manslaughter in the April 11 killing of Wright, a 20-year-old Black motorist. She was sentenced only on the more serious charge in accordance with state law.

Wright's mother, Katie Wright, said after the sentencing that Potter "murdered my son," adding: "Today the justice system murdered him all over again."

She also accused the judge of being taken in by "white woman's tears" after Potter cried during her pre-sentencing statement.

Speaking before the sentence was imposed, a tearful Wright said she could never forgive Potter, and she would refer to her only as "the defendant" because Potter only referred to her son as "the driver" at trial.

"She never once said his name. And for that I'll never be able to forgive you. And I'll never be able to forgive you for what you've stolen



Daunte Wright's parents react after former Officer Kim Potter was sentenced Friday in Minneapolis. **NICOLE NERI/AP**

from us," said Wright, who also sometimes uses the last name Bryant.

"Daunte Demetrius Wright, I will continue to fight in your name until driving while Black is no longer a death sentence," she said.

Potter offered an apology to Wright's family, then spoke to his mother: "Katie, I understand a mother's love. I'm sorry I broke your heart ... my heart is broken and devastated for all of you."

The judge, who imposed a sentence below state guidelines, called it "one of the saddest cases I've had on my 20 years on the bench." Judge Regina Chu said she received "hundreds

and hundreds" of letters in support of Potter. "On the one hand, a young man was killed and on the other, a respected 26-year veteran police officer made a tragic error by pulling her handgun instead of her Taser."

Chu said the lesser sentence was warranted because Potter was "in the line of duty and doing her job in attempting to lawfully arrest Daunte Wright," and Potter was trying to protect another officer who could have been dragged and seriously injured if Wright drove away.

The judge said Potter will serve the standard two-thirds of her sentence,

or 16 months in prison, with the rest on parole. She has earned credit for 58 days that she has been in the state's women's prison in Shakopee since the verdict.

Wright was killed after Brooklyn Center officers pulled him over for having expired license tags and an air freshener hanging from his rearview mirror. Civil rights advocates complain that laws against hanging objects from rearview mirrors have been used as a pretext for stopping Black motorists.

The shooting, which happened as Derek Chauvin was on trial in Minneapolis on murder charges

in George Floyd's killing, sparked several days of demonstrations outside the Brooklyn Center police station marked by tear gas and clashes between protesters and police.

Wright family attorney Ben Crump said the family was stunned by the sentence, saying they didn't understand why such consideration was given to a white officer in the killing of a young Black man when a Black officer, Mohamed Noor, got a longer sentence in 2017 for the killing of a white woman, Justine Ruszczyk Damond.

"What we see today is the legal system in Black and

white."

But the judge said the case was not the same as other high-profile killings by police.

"This is not a cop found guilty of murder for using his knee to pin down a person for 9 ½ minutes as he gasped for air. This is not a cop found guilty of manslaughter for intentionally drawing his firearm and shooting across his partner and killing an unarmed woman who approached his squad," said Chu, referring to Chauvin and Noor. "This is a cop who made a tragic mistake."

For someone with no criminal history, such as Potter, the state guidelines on first-degree manslaughter range from slightly more than six years to about 8 ½ years in prison, with the presumptive sentence being just over seven years.

Prosecutors initially argued that aggravating factors warranted a sentence above the guideline range, saying Potter abused her authority as an officer and that her actions caused a greater-than-normal danger to others.

But on Friday, Prosecutor Matt Frank said the presumptive sentence was proper.

"His life mattered, and that life was taken," Frank said before sentencing.

Defense attorney Paul Engh asked for a sentence below the guidelines, including probation only, arguing that Wright was the aggressor. He said the testimony of other officers on the scene showed it was a dangerous situation because Wright was attempting to drive away, and Potter had the right to defend other officers.

Canadian police move to clear blockade in capital

At least 70 arrested, vehicles towed as some trucks depart

By Rob Gillies, Wilson Ring and Robert Bumsted
Associated Press

OTTAWA, Ontario — Police began arresting scores of demonstrators and towing away vehicles Friday in Canada's besieged capital, and a stream of trucks started leaving under the pressure, raising authorities' hopes for an end to the three-week protest against the country's COVID-19 restrictions.

By midafternoon, at least 70 people had been arrested, mostly on mischief charges, and more than roughly two dozen vehicles had been towed, including all of those blocking one of city's major streets, authorities said. One officer had a minor injury, but no protesters were hurt, interim Ottawa Police Chief Steve Bell said.

Police "continue to push forward to take control of our streets," he said, adding: "We will work day and night until this is completed."

Those arrested included at least four protest leaders.

The crackdown on the self-styled Freedom Convoy

began in the morning, when hundreds of police, some in riot gear and some carrying automatic weapons, descended into the protest zone and began leading demonstrators away in handcuffs through the snowy streets as holdout truckers blared their horns.

Tow truck operators wearing neon-green ski masks, with their companies' decals taped over on their trucks to conceal their identities, arrived under police escort and started removing the hundreds of big rigs, campers and other vehicles parked shoulder to shoulder near Parliament. Police smashed through the door of at least one RV camper before hauling it away.

Scuffles broke out in places, and police repeatedly went nose-to-nose with the protesters and pushed the crowd back amid cries of "Freedom!" and the singing of the national anthem, "O Canada."

Many protesters stood their ground in the face of one of the biggest police enforcement actions in Canada's history, with officers drawn from around the country.

"Freedom was never free," said trucker Kevin Homaund, of Montreal. "So

what if they put the handcuffs on us and they put us in jail?"

But a steady procession of trucks began leaving Parliament Hill in the afternoon as lines of officers pushed through the streets.

"There are indications we are now starting to see progress," Ontario Premier Doug Ford said.

The capital and its paralyzed streets represented the movement's last stronghold after weeks of demonstrations and blockades that shut down border crossings into the U.S. and created one of the most serious tests yet for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. They also shook Canada's reputation for civility, with some blaming America's influence.

Authorities had hesitated to move against the protests, in part because of fears of violence. The demonstrations have drawn right-wing extremists and veterans, some of them armed.

With police and the government facing accusations that they let the protests get out of hand, Trudeau on Monday invoked Canada's Emergencies Act. That gave law enforcement extraordinary authority to declare the blockades illegal, tow away trucks, arrest the drivers,



Police officers help a tow operator remove a truck Friday in Ottawa as authorities broke up a three-week protest against vaccine regulations. **JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

suspend their licenses and freeze their bank accounts.

Ottawa police made their first move to end the occupation late Thursday with the arrest of two key protest leaders. They also sealed off much of the downtown area to outsiders to prevent them from coming to the aid of the protesters.

The emergency act also enabled law enforcement authorities to compel tow truck companies to assist. Ottawa police said earlier that they couldn't find tow truck drivers willing to help because they either sympa-

thized with the movement or feared retaliation.

As police worked to dismantle the siege, Pat King, one of the protest leaders, told truckers, "Please stay peaceful," while also threatening the livelihoods of the tow truck operators.

"You are committing career suicide," King warned on Facebook. "We know where the trucks came from."

King himself was later arrested by officers who surrounded him in his car.

Ottawa police had made it clear for days that they

were preparing to retake the streets at any moment.

On Friday, even as the operation was underway, police issued another round of warnings via social media and loudspeaker, offering protesters one more chance to leave and avoid arrest.

Some protesters locked arms instead as officers formed a line to push them back.

Dan Holland, a protester from London, Ontario, packed up his car as police closed in. "I don't want to get beat up by this police," he said.

Mild flu season waning, but health officials wary about calling it over

By Mike Stobbe
Associated Press

NEW YORK — This winter's mild flu season has faded to a trickle of cases in much of the U.S., but health officials aren't ready to call it over.

Since the beginning of the year, positive flu test results and doctor's office visits for flu-like illness are down. But second waves of influenza are not unusual, and some experts said it's possible a late winter or spring surge

could be coming.

"The question we're asking ourselves now is: 'Is this it, or is there more to come?'" said Lynnette Brammer of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

COVID-19 cases have been falling, leading to a decline in mask wearing and behaviors that may have been keeping flu down this winter. As people are less cautious, flu or other respiratory viruses can surge, Brammer said.

Some indicators of flu activity have inched up the last couple of weeks: a count of flu-related hospitalizations and the percent of specimens from patients with respiratory illnesses that test positive for flu.

Limited data on who is testing positive for flu suggest about two-thirds are kids and young adults. Kids have driven flu's spread in past years, so "it's quite possible we could see continued increases," Brammer said.

Dr. Angela Branche, a University of Rochester infectious diseases specialist, called the flu season unusual.

"I don't have any (flu) cases in my practice this week," she said recently. Normally, doctors in Rochester would be diagnosing 50 to 100 flu cases a day around this time of year.

It seems like the current flu season is "easing to the finish line," said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University infectious

diseases expert. But viruses can be unpredictable.

"As the flu-ologists like to say, 'if you've seen one flu season, you've seen one flu season,'" he said.

Last winter's flu season was virtually nonexistent. Experts credit mask wearing, social distancing, school closures and other measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The season peaked in December, just as COVID-19 cases surged, driven by the more transmissible

omicron variant, Branche said. Flu cases dropped as more people masked up and took other steps to prevent coronavirus from spreading, she said.

Of course, a highly effective vaccine would help lessen the severity of a flu season. But researchers say the flu strain that's been circulating is a mismatch for this year's vaccine.

The CDC has not released estimates of the vaccine's effectiveness but it is expected to do so next week.

George Washington We Need Him Today! HIS STATESMANSHIP

HIS FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS (April 30, 1789): — No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men **more than** those of the United States. Every step which they have advanced to the character of an **independent nation** seems to have been distinguished by some token of **providential agency**....since we ought to be no less persuaded that **the propitious smile of Heaven** can never be expected on a nation that **disregards the eternal rules of order and right** which Heaven itself had ordained; and since the preservation of the **sacred fire of liberty** and the destiny of the **republican model of government** are justly considered, perhaps, as *deeply*, as *finally*, staked on the **experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people**. “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34).



FAREWELL ADDRESS (Sept. 17, 1796): “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are **indispensable supports** ... Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, **reason and experience** both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle ... It is substantially true that **virtue or morality** is a necessary spring of popular government.” In his Thanksgiving Proclamation (Oct. 3, 1789) Washington said: “It is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor....While just government protects all in their religious rights, **true religion** affords to government its surest support.”

“**Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.** The LORD looketh from heaven; He beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of His habitation **He looketh upon** all the inhabitants of the earth. Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them **that fear Him**, upon them that hope in His mercy” (Psalm 33:12-14,18).

HIS SUBMISSION – “May we unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great **Lord and Ruler of Nations**, and beseech Him to **pardon** our national and other transgressions.” In his will recorded in Virginia: “...most humbly desiring **forgiveness** of the same (my sins past) from **Almighty God, my Saviour and Redeemer** in Whom and **by the merits of Jesus Christ, I trust and believe assuredly to be saved** and to have **full remission** and forgiveness of all my sins. “**CAN YOU SAY THIS WITH WASHINGTON?**”

As the country so its people need to rightly acknowledge and honor the living and only God in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ: “And this is life eternal, that they **might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ**, whom Thou hast sent” (John 17:3). “**BELIEVE** on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be **SAVED**” (Acts 16:31 and see Acts 4:12).

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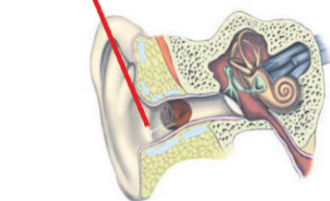
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WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Trump took classified records to Fla. estate, agency says in letter

From news services

WASHINGTON — Classified information was found in the 15 boxes of White House records that were stored at former President Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida, the National Archives and Records Administration said Friday in a letter that confirmed the matter has been sent to the Justice Department.

The letter from the agency follows numerous reports around Trump’s handling of sensitive and even classified information during his time as president and after he left the White House.

Federal law bars the removal of classified documents to unauthorized locations, though it is possible that Trump could try to argue that, as president, he was the ultimate declassification authority.

No matter the legal risk, it exposes him to charges of hypocrisy given his relentless attacks during the 2016 presidential campaign on Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton for her use of a private email server as secretary of state. The FBI investigated but ultimately did not recommend charges.

Trump recently denied reports about his administration’s tenuous relationship with the National Archives and his lawyers said that “they are continuing to search for additional presidential records that belong to the National Archives.”

The letter from the archivists in response to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, which is investigating, also details how certain social media records were not captured and preserved by the Trump administration. And it also says that the agency learned that White House staff

frequently conducted official business using unofficial messaging accounts and personal phones.

Those staff did not copy or forward their official messaging counts, as required by the Presidential Records Act. The letter also goes on to reveal that after Trump left the White House, the National Archives learned that additional paper records that had been torn up by the former president had been transferred to the agency.

“Although White House staff during the Trump Administration recovered and taped together some of the torn-up records, a number of other torn-up records that were transferred had not been reconstructed by the White House,” the letter continued.

House investigators will be looking to see if Trump’s actions, both during his presidency and after, violated the Presidential Records Act, which was enacted in 1978 after former President Richard Nixon wanted to destroy documents related to the Watergate scandal.

Shutdown averted: President Joe Biden on Friday signed a bipartisan bill to extend government funding for three weeks to give Congress more time to reach an overdue deal financing federal agencies through the rest of the fiscal year, the White House announced.

The Senate approved the measure Thursday by a bipartisan 65-27 vote, five more than the 60 votes needed, after the House easily approved the legislation last week.

Both parties hope the short-term measure will be the last one needed as negotiators craft compromise bills financing agencies through Sept. 30. Since the government’s budget year



Ferry fire: Rescuers boarded a ferry in Greece to free two truck drivers who had been stranded inside the vessel for more than 15 hours Friday, but hope was fading for 11 others reported missing. The coast guard said 278 passengers and crew had been rescued earlier from the fire that engulfed the Italy-bound ferry near the Greek island of Corfu. **LAZOS MANTIKOS/DEBATER.GR.**

began last Oct. 1, federal agencies have functioned at spending levels approved in the waning weeks of Donald Trump’s presidency.

Weapons ban: A new bill in California would allow private citizens to go after gun makers in the same way Texas lets them target abortion providers, though gun advocates immediately promised a court challenge if it becomes law.

Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday backed legislation that would let private citizens enforce the state’s ban on assault weapons. It’s modeled after a Texas law that lets private citizens enforce that state’s ban on abortions once a fetal heartbeat is detected.

Austin police officers: A Texas grand jury indicted 19 Austin police officers on charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon for their actions during 2020 protests over racial injustice that spread

nationwide following the killing of George Floyd, according to people familiar with the matter.

Multiple people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Thursday. Austin Police Association President Ken Casaday confirmed 19 officers are facing charges but did not have details.

It ranks among the most indictments on a single police department in the U.S. over tactics used by officers during the widespread protests.

Prince Harry hearing: Lawyers for Prince Harry told a court hearing Friday that the British royal is unwilling to bring his children to his homeland because it is not safe.

Harry has launched a legal challenge to the U.K. government’s refusal to let him personally pay for police protection when he comes to Britain.

His legal team says Harry wants to bring his children

— Archie, who is almost 3, and 8-month-old Lilibet — to visit his home country from the United States but thinks it would be too risky without police protection.

Harry, who lives in Santa Barbara, California, with the children and his wife, Megan, did not attend Friday’s preliminary hearing.

Senior members of Britain’s royal family are given taxpayer-funded police protection, but Harry lost that when he and Meghan stepped down as working royals and moved to the United States in 2020. The couple said their decision was due to what they described as unbearable intrusions and racist attitudes of the British media.

Harry, also known as the Duke of Sussex, wants to be able to pay for the protection, saying his private security team in the U.S. doesn’t have adequate jurisdiction abroad or access to U.K. intelligence information.

A lawyer representing the

British government, Robert Palmer, called Harry’s claim “unarguable and unmeritorious.”

2008 India bombings: A court in New Delhi sentenced 38 people to death for a series of bomb blasts in 2008 that left more than 50 dead in Gujarat state, which has a history of violent clashes between Hindus and Muslims.

It was the first time that so many accused have received death sentences in a single case in India. The sentences handed down Friday must be confirmed by a higher court.

The attacks in Ahmedabad 13 years ago underscored communal tensions that are still reverberating in India.

The bombers planned the explosions as revenge for the 2002 Hindu-Muslim violence in Gujarat in which more than 1,000 people, most of them Muslims, were killed, the Press Trust of India news agency said.



Waves crash against the sea wall and Porthcawl Lighthouse as Storm Eunice makes landfall Friday in Wales. An earlier storm killed five people in Germany and Poland. **JACOB KING/PA**

2nd deadly storm in 3 days kills 9 in northern Europe

By Danica Kirka
Associated Press

LONDON — The second major storm in three days smashed through northern Europe on Friday, killing at least nine people as high winds felled trees, canceled train services and ripped sections off the roof of London’s O2 Arena.

The U.K. weather service said a gust provisionally measured at 122 mph, thought to be the strongest ever in England, was recorded on the Isle of Wight as Storm Eunice swept across the country’s south.

The weather system, known as Storm Zeynep in Germany, is now pushing into the European mainland, prompting high wind warnings in Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany.

The storm caused mayhem with travel in Britain, shutting the English Channel port of Dover, closing bridges linking England and Wales, and halting most trains in and out of London.

At least three people died in Britain, including a man in southern England killed when a car hit a tree,

another man whose windshield was struck by debris in northwest England and a woman in her 30s who died in London when a tree fell on a car, police said.

In the Netherlands, firefighters said three people were killed by falling trees in and around Amsterdam, and a fourth died in the northern province of Groningen after driving his car into a fallen tree.

In neighboring Belgium, an elderly man died when high winds pushed him into a canal in Ypres.

In County Wexford, Ireland, a local government worker was killed as he responded to the scene of a fallen tree.

Eunice is the second named storm to hit Europe this week, with the first storm killing five people in Germany and Poland.

Peter Inness, a meteorologist at the University of Reading in England, attributed the storms to an unusually strong jet stream over the eastern Atlantic Ocean, with winds close to 200 mph at high altitudes.

“A strong jet stream like this can act like a production line for storms, generating a new storm every day

or two,” Inness said. “There have been many occasions in the recent past when two or more damaging storms have passed across the U.K. and other parts of Europe in the space of a few days.”

The forecast led British authorities to take the unusual step of issuing “red” weather warnings — indicating a danger to life — for parts of southern England, including London, and Wales. A lower level amber warning for gusts up to 80 mph covers the whole of England until late Friday.

Even before Britain was hit by the full force of the storm, Eunice disrupted travel across southern England and Wales with many train services interrupted and numerous flights and ferry services canceled.

In London, winds ripped sections of roofing from the O2 Arena, a landmark on the south bank of the River Thames that was originally known as the Millennium Dome.

“I urge all Londoners to stay at home, do not take risks, and do not travel unless it is absolutely essential,” Mayor Sadiq Khan said before the storm.

Navy nuclear engineer’s wife pleads guilty in sub spy case

By Aishvarya Kavi
and Julian E. Barnes
The New York Times

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. — The wife of a Navy nuclear engineer pleaded guilty Friday to taking part in a conspiracy to sell submarine secrets to a foreign country, bringing to a close an espionage case that mixed spycraft and politics with the travails of a suburban family.

Four days after her husband, Jonathan Toebe, pleaded guilty in the case under a deal with the government, Diana Toebe, a high school teacher in Annapolis, Maryland, acknowledged her part in a scheme to sell nuclear reactor secrets her husband had taken from the Navy, and will face a sentence of not more than three years, according to the terms of her agreement with the government.

Her plea was entered during a hearing at a federal courthouse in Martinsburg.

In April 2020, the couple wrote to an undisclosed foreign government, which turned over the letter to the FBI. Investigators then set up a series of dead drops to ensnare the Toebees; he faces 12 to 17 ½ years in prison under the terms of his plea.

In the court proceeding Friday, prosecutors outlined how Diana Toebe served as a lookout while her husband deposited information in a dead drop set up by the FBI.

She said she “knowingly and voluntarily joined a conspiracy with my husband, Jonathan Toebe,” to attempt to sell government secrets to a foreign nation.

The couple’s plea deals will spare the government from a trial that could have risked exposing the foreign country involved in the plot — which officials have worked hard to keep secret. It might also have risked



Diana Toebe’s husband, Jonathan Toebe, previously pleaded guilty to trying to sell submarine secrets to a foreign country. **HANDOUT**

making public some of the material that the couple intended to provide to the foreign government.

Jonathan Toebe worked in the Washington Navy Yard, developing nuclear reactors for American submarines. Although he had access to some of the nation’s most highly protected secrets, the exact nature of the material he tried to sell in exchange for a kind of cryptocurrency has not been revealed by the government.

Former students and colleagues at Annapolis’s elite Key School described Diana Toebe as increasingly frustrated with American politics and former President Donald Trump.

She also complained about her pay at the school. Her husband made a good government salary as a highly educated nuclear engineer, \$153,737 a year. She had even stronger academic credentials, holding a doctorate from Emory University, but she earned less than some of her male colleagues, a source of friction she would express in front of her classes, according to former students.

And, people briefed on the investigation said, they thought the couple’s motivation was financial.

Under the terms of her plea agreement, Diana

Toebe could face large fines and restitution to the government, although the government should not be able to seize her house.

In an earlier court hearing over her detention, the government read from encrypted text messages between the couple that prosecutors said showed her alienation from the U.S.

The defense countered that her frustration with Trump was hardly treasonous and was, in fact, something many Americans shared.

The Toebees have two school-age children, who until the arrest of their parents attended the school where their mother taught.

Some of the text messages revealed in court and discussions with people briefed on the case portrayed Diana Toebe as either an equal partner in the conspiracy or the person driving the plot forward.

But in Friday’s court hearing, she only acknowledged participating in the plan to try and sell secrets in the summer of 2021, when her husband was arranging with an undercover FBI agent to deposit material in various dead-drop sites.

Prosecutors had video evidence of her serving as a lookout as her husband placed a memory card inside a peanut butter sandwich and left it for the undercover agent.

From the beginning of court proceeding, Jonathan Toebe positioned himself to take as much of the responsibility as he could — presumably an attempt to reduce the prison time his wife would serve.

In jailhouse phone calls taped by the government, he told relatives his wife was innocent.

And in his plea deal, he said it was he who wrote the letter to the foreign country and interacted with the undercover FBI officer.

BUSINESS

COURANT.COM/BUSINESS

G-20 leaders urge care in unwinding virus support

Finance ministers agree on combating inflation by buffering economies

By Edna Tarigan
Associated Press

JAKARTA — Finance leaders of the world's biggest economies called Friday for a cautious and well coordinated approach to navigating recoveries from the pandemic.

Finance ministers and top central bankers of the Group of 20 industrial nations agreed on a need to carefully calibrate moves by the U.S. and other countries to combat inflation by raising interest rates and unwinding other measures to buffer economies from repeated waves of coronavirus outbreaks, said Indonesian central bank Gov. Perry Warjiyo.

"We agreed that in order to support the global financial system we need a well coordinated and well considered normalization policy," Warjiyo told reporters in an online news conference.

"This is important so that these policies have minimum impact on global financial markets and on developing countries."

Meetings like the one held Thursday and Friday in Jakarta lay the groundwork for a

summit of G-20 leaders later in the year.

As of late Friday evening, the leaders had not yet released their communique. But Indonesian officials indicated that much of what was discussed was carried over from last year's talks: global tax policies, climate financing and funding for improved public health.

In opening the meetings, Indonesian President Joko Widodo urged that countries cooperate to support the global recovery and avoid tensions like those in Ukraine.

"The geopolitical situation adds to challenges G-20 countries are facing," Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said after the talks wrapped up.

Inflation has pushed prices of food, energy and other vital necessities sharply higher at a time when many countries are still trying to get COVID-19 outbreaks under control. That has financial leaders treading a precarious path between raising costs of borrowing to cool inflation and while trying to avoid derailing nascent economic recoveries.

The U.S. Federal Reserve is pulling back

on massive support for markets and businesses, preparing to raise interest rates as soon as next month to cool inflation that jumped to 7.5% in January — the highest rate in 40 years.

Consumer prices rose to a record 5.1% in the 19 countries that use the euro last month and to a nearly 30-year high in the United Kingdom.

Indonesia's central bank has also moved to curb inflation while still trying to repair damage caused by the pandemic.

Officials attended the G-20 meetings both in person and online, given troubles with travel and quarantines due to outbreaks mostly of the omicron variant of coronavirus.

Host Indonesia is among many countries in Southeast Asia that have endured severe waves of infections, though vaccinations have helped quell the worst of outbreaks. The world's 10th-largest economy is located in the fastest growing region — at least before the pandemic swept the world, disrupting business while killing nearly 6 million people.

US may boot Nicaragua from free trade pact

By Joshua Goodman
and Christopher Sherman
Associated Press

MIAMI — The Biden administration is considering trying to expel Nicaragua from a lucrative regional free trade pact — or allocate its valuable sugar quota to another country in Central America — to retaliate against President Daniel Ortega's crackdown on his opponents, according to a U.S. official.

The economic impact of the action is still under analysis and no decision has been made, according to a U.S. official speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal conversations.

But any action affecting billions in annual trade with the U.S. could inflict serious economic pain on the country's business elite, who have mostly stood by silently as Ortega's repressive tactics have grown, the official said.

Nicaragua has been holding what the U.S. considers daily show trials against anti-government activists rounded up ahead of last fall's elections. His likely opponents unable to compete, Ortega easily won a fourth consecutive term. Each defendant so far has been convicted and sentenced to prison.

Expulsion from the Central America Free Trade Agreement, which was signed in 2004, would be a major blow, depriving Ortega's government of important export earnings and foreign investment. Nicaragua is the only nation in CAFTA to run a trade surplus with the U.S., about \$2.5 billion last year, or 20% of its gross domestic product.

But booting Nicaragua from the trade pact is no easy feat.

CAFTA is an international treaty ratified by seven nations. It has no expulsion mechanism, so any attempt to corral Ortega would require Nicaragua's neighbors to withdraw from the pact and negotiate a new deal.



Sarah Palin, the former Alaska governor, lost her high-profile defamation lawsuit earlier this week. JEFFERSON SIEGEL/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Palin's loss not the last word?

Lawyers looking to revisit libel law say Supreme Court precedent may need new look

By Jeremy W. Peters
The New York Times

Sarah Palin's loss of her defamation lawsuit against The New York Times has reaffirmed, for now, more than a half-century of legal precedent that protects journalists when they make inadvertent — even sloppy — mistakes.

But her case still may have achieved another aim that she and her lawyers said they had all along: to shine an unflattering light on the process of producing daily journalism and to nudge the courts to reconsider why the law sets an extremely high bar to prove defamation cases against media outlets.

"I'm not happy at the beating the Times — and the press in general — had to take in this process," said RonNell Andersen Jones, a professor at the University of Utah College of Law, adding that it was "reassuring that both the judge and the jury independently saw that our strict constitutional protections don't permit easy punishment of the press."

Still, Andersen Jones added, "I can't help but worry that the core principles took a hit here."

While the Times succeeded in convincing a jury and a federal judge that Palin failed to prove that Times journalists acted with "actual malice" — meaning displaying a reckless disregard for the truth or publishing the information known to be false, the standard the Supreme Court set in 1964 for public figures who sue for defamation — her case is not likely to be the last word.

Some Supreme Court justices have indicated they would like to revisit the issue. But First Amendment scholars said no lawsuit at the moment appeared to be an ideal vehicle for that. There are several cases, however, that would highlight the paradoxes inherent in American libel law, lawyers sympathetic to adjusting the law said.

While the skepticism about the 1964 case, New York Times v. Sullivan, has come mostly from the political right, conservatives have also embraced the standard when faced with legal challenges. Some legal experts pointed out that those who have been accused in court of spreading false claims about voter fraud — including Fox News, One America News Network and Rudy Giuliani — are arguing that it was

protected speech.

The questions about what kind of speech in the media should remain constitutionally shielded from liability are especially pressing when the proliferation of false information threatens to further destabilize the nation's deeply polarized political system.

What concerns supporters of broad First Amendment protections the most is a legal and political climate that seems to have gone sour for them.

A recent study that tracked every reference to the press in Supreme Court opinions found what the authors, Andersen Jones and Sonja R. West of the University of Georgia School of Law, characterized as "troubling trends" in language from the bench that suggest the current justices will be more willing to scale back long-standing constitutional protections for journalists.

In one finding, the study revealed that phrases like "freedom of the press" — once routinely acknowledged by the justices — have now all but "dropped out of the U.S. Supreme Court's collective vocabulary."

The issue is not necessarily one that only conservatives are concerned with. Justice Elena Kagan, before she joined the court, wrote an article expressing skepticism about the way the Sullivan standard had been expanded by the courts since 1964.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

US to lift ban on Mexico avocados

MEXICO CITY — The U.S. Embassy announced Friday that Washington is lifting a ban on inspections of Mexican avocados, freeing the way for exports to resume.

Ambassador Ken Salazar said the decision came after Mexico and the United States agreed "to enact the measures that ensure the safety" of agricultural inspectors who ensure Mexican avocados don't carry diseases or pests that would harm U.S. orchards.

The inspections were halted last week after a U.S. inspector was threatened in Michoacan state, where growers are subject to extortion by gangs. The inspector had "questioned the integrity of a certain shipment, and refused to certify it based on concrete issues," U.S. officials said.

Sales of homes surge in January

LOS ANGELES — Sales of previously occupied homes rose in January as a surge in buyers with cash and others eager to avoid higher mortgage rates snapped up properties, leaving the number of available houses on the market at a record low.

Existing home sales rose 6.7% last month from December to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.5 million, the National Association of Realtors said Friday.

Sales slipped 2.3% from January 2021 as the median home price jumped 15.4% from last year at this time, to \$350,300.

The number of homes for sale at the end of January totaled just 860,000 — the fewest since the NAR began tracking it in 1999, and there are few signs that pressure will let up soon.

Senate confirms watchdog for health care

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldívar
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate has confirmed a federal watchdog assailed by former President Donald Trump to the top job battling fraud, waste and abuse at the \$1.6 trillion Department of Health and Human Services, which has a portfolio that spans health, social services and even the care of migrant children.

No Republicans objected to confirming Christi Grimm, a longtime civil servant to be HHS inspector general. Her division includes some 1,600 auditors, law enforcement agents, and management experts, and is known for its annual health care fraud takedowns. The voice vote came Thursday.

Only two years ago, Trump lashed out at Grimm from the White House briefing room after her office released a survey that highlighted the struggles of hospitals in the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the well-documented shortage of tests at the time.

"It is wrong," Trump said nonetheless.

The report was a fact-based product by federal gumshoes, but Trump insinuated it was politically motivated. The former president had a rocky relationship with inspector generals throughout the government and Grimm at that time was the de facto head of the HHS office, which was lacking a Senate-confirmed leader. She started her government career in 1999, serving both Republican and Democratic administra-

tions.

"So, give me the name of the inspector general?" Trump asked a reporter at the briefing.

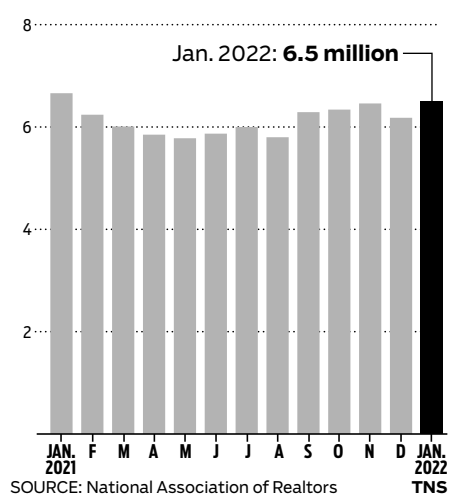
When told that Grimm had served in the Obama administration, Trump responded: "Thank you for telling me that ... there's a typical fake news deal."

Though inspectors general are presidential appointees, they can serve extended terms under presidents of both parties. They are expected to be nonpartisan independent investigators, shedding light on deficiencies in their agencies.

At her confirmation hearing before the Senate Finance Committee last fall, Grimm, 46, described herself as a "career public servant who rose through the ranks."

Existing home sales

Scale in millions



BUSINESS



Farmers and their tractors line up Sunday during a protest in Tyrnavos, Greece. Farmers are seeking additional government aid to counter high energy prices. **GIANNIS PAPANIKOS/AP**

Greek farm protests a signal of Europe’s inflation anxiety

By Costas Kantouris and Derek Gatopoulos
Associated Press

TYRNAVOS, Greece — In Greece’s rural heartland, tractors have become a symbol of anxiety.

For weeks, they have been parked along the country’s highways, their owners threatening to block traffic. Farmers are desperate for additional financial aid to cope with surging energy prices that are pushing up their costs for fuel and fertilizer, posing a sudden threat to their livelihoods.

“Take fertilizer: Last year, we were paying (\$570) a ton. Now, it’s as if we’re buying a piece of land. It’s (\$1,930 to \$2,040),” said Dimitris Kakalis, a 25-year-old farmer from central Greece who has joined the protests.

The spike in energy prices and its ripple effects, he says, touch every part of his vineyard and peach grove business — it costs more for gasoline needed for farming machinery, electricity to power irrigation pumps and weed killer.

“At these (prices), we’re headed for ruin,” he said.

The sting of high energy prices — which are driving decades-high inflation numbers — is being felt around the world, piling financial stress on governments, businesses and households. Countries are scrambling to address expensive utility bills and rising prices for food as farmers and supermarkets pass along their costs to customers, many of whom are facing a cost-of-living crisis.

Police in Turkey have been ordered to inspect grocery stores to ensure a new sales tax cut on food is implemented, with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan promising “severe punishment” for those who defy the measure. For some in agriculture, they’re having to eat the extra costs: Egg producers in France recently pelted windows at the headquarters of a major supermarket chain to demand higher retail prices.

In Greece, inflation is at a 25-year high and price increases for many basic food items are in double digits: Vegetables are up more than 14% from a year ago, olive oil is up by over

15% and certain types of meat are more than 17% higher.

At a neighborhood grocery store in Athens’ central Petralona district, shoppers picking up a few items say they now take a 20-euro note with them instead of the 10 they needed last year.

Farmers are feeling the same pain as they try to stay afloat. They’re pressuring the government to provide additional aid on their electricity bills, cut sales taxes for fuel and other demands.

Like many other European Union nations, Greece has rushed through subsidies, tax cuts and other temporary measures to help households pay electricity bills. But the prospects for longer-term aid are not clear.

Charity groups say the effects of the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis are clear, with some people increasingly desperate.

“The gap between the have-nots and the rest of society is widening, and what we are seeing is shocking,” said Constantine Dimtsas, director of Apostoli, the country’s largest charity.

Amid calls for delay, telecoms start shutting down 3G service

By Tali Arbel
Associated Press

NEW YORK — As telecom companies rev up the newest generation of mobile service, called 5G, they’re shutting down old networks — a costly, years-in-the-works process that’s now prompting calls for a delay because many products out there still rely on the old standard, 3G.

AT&T is scheduled to be the first carrier to shut down its 3G network on Tuesday. T-Mobile will shut down its 3G network by summer and Verizon in December.

The home-alarm industry has asked the Federal Communications Commission, the U.S. regulator, to delay AT&T’s network sunset until December.

The FCC is monitoring the 3G phase-out and working to “implement safeguards” for older phones and other devices, spokesperson Paloma Perez said this week.

Verizon has already pushed back its shutdown — twice — from an original target date in 2019, saying customers needed more time to update their devices.

T-Mobile has also delayed the shutdown of the Sprint 3G network it acquired in 2020, to the end of March; it’ll shut down the T-Mobile 3G network by July 1.



Two models of Apple’s iPhone 5. For now, both of them still operate on 3G and 4G networks. **MARK LENNIHAN/AP 2013**

itable — services.

What if I have an older phone?

People with phones that aren’t compatible with 4G will have to upgrade; once 3G shuts down, those phones won’t work for calls or texting. AT&T says it has reached out to offer its customers free replacements via letters, emails and texts. Spokesperson Jim Greer said fewer than 1% of AT&T’s consumer devices, including phones, tablets and watches, will lose cellular service, but declined to say how many devices that is. The company reported about 196 million phones and connected devices using its network in the most recent quarter.

What about other devices?

Industry groups have also raised concerns about other products that will need to be replaced or updated — everything from home fire alarms to ankle bracelets used by law enforcement. It’s not certain how many outdated products are out there, or how big a deal it would be if updates take place after Feb. 22. The alarm industry and other companies say they have had issues replacing devices even though they’ve known about the coming shutdown for years. Recent setbacks include both pandemic-triggered supply-chain issues and customers hesitant to let technicians into their homes during the pandemic.

How many outdated products are out there?

It’s not really clear. An alarm-industry lobbying group estimates that 1.5 million customers still need to upgrade their fire or burglar alarms, while about half a million have medical alert devices that run on 3G; it said most rely on AT&T service. While an unnetworked fire alarm will still sound an alarm if there’s smoke, it won’t be able to contact the fire department. Likewise, burglar alarms won’t route to emergency responders if triggered. Not all providers say there’s an issue. ADT said in November that it was on track to update its AT&T customers by February; a spokesperson declined to offer an update this week.

How should I prepare?

Check your phone to make sure it will still work. Call the companies that make or service your burglar and fire alarms and personal medical alert systems to see if any need an update. If so, schedule a service visit immediately.

MARKET RUNDOWN

Saturday, February 19, 2022

↓ **DOW**
34,079.18 -232.85

↓ **10-YR T-BOND**
1.92% -.05

↓ **GOLD**
\$1,898.60 -2.10

Dow Jones Industrials
Close: 34,079.18
Change: -232.85 (-0.7%)

10 DAYS

Domestic Indexes			
	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	34,079.18	-232.85	-6.22%
DOW Trans.	14,970.97	-28.09	-9.15%
DOW Util.	915.77	+.77	-6.63%
NYSE Comp.	16,392.32	-99.72	-4.50%
Nasdaq Comp.	13,548.07	-168.65	-13.40%
S&P 500	4,348.87	-31.39	-8.76%
S&P 400	2,632.49	-12.44	-7.37%
Wilshire 5000	43,866.56	-385.10	-9.48%
Russell 2000	2,009.33	-18.76	-10.51%

Commodities			
	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
FUELS			
Crude Oil (bbl)	91.07	91.76	+21.09%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.43	4.49	+18.79%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.67	2.65	+19.80%
METALS			
Gold (oz)	1,898.60	1,900.70	+3.89%
Silver (oz)	23.99	23.87	+2.84%

Foreign Exchange		Money Rates		
ForEx in U.S.\$	U.S.\$ in ForEx		PREV. CLOSE WK.	
Britain	1.3603	.7352	Prime rate	3.25 3.25
Canada	.7848	1.2743	3-mo. T-Bill	0.36 0.42
China	.1581	6.3256	6-mo. T-Bill	0.66 0.73
Euro	1.1330	.8826	5-yr T-Note	1.82 1.94
Japan	.008689	115.09	10-yr T-Note	1.92 2.04
Mexico	.049275	20.2943	30-yr T-Bond	2.24 2.36

Global Markets			
	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG. %YTD
Frankfurt	15,042.51	-225.12	-1.47% -5.30%
London	7,513.62	-23.75	-.32% +1.75%
Hong Kong	24,327.71	-465.06	-1.88% +3.97%
Nikkei	27,122.07	-110.80	-.41% -5.80%



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OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Avon cafe proves health benefits of a plant-based diet

Thanks to The Courant for publishing an article about the courage and passion of Colleen Morgan's opening of the Wild Alchemy Cafe in Avon [courant.com, Feb. 3, "Wild Alchemy, a vegan, raw, whole-food smoothie shop, opens in Avon"]. Her commitment to finding the cause of her son's life-threatening allergies and her creativity in identifying the contribution of raw, plant-based diet to his complete remission was amazing. But to assume only people with extreme food allergies would benefit from a plant-based diet would be short-sighted.

Look at the Courant's Sunday Insight article "Will CT health care consolidation bring less service at greater cost?" to realize the extent of our poor health status and the role of the "health care industrial complex." Only when we consider the possibility of food as medicine and food as a major cause of poor health will we control the constantly increasing cost of health care and the parallel incidence of our poor health. Failure to address some foods as a major contributor to endemic poor health is not an option. A complex challenge for sure.

Bill Lavine, West Hartford

Masks work; we should be using them

The lifting of mask mandates in Connecticut schools calls to mind the story of the small village on the coast of Maine that voted at its town meeting to discontinue operating its lighthouse after 50 years of service because during all of that time there had never been a shipwreck.

Jerry Shimoda-Peterson, West Hartford

At last, we can see our children smile, smirk

Masked students can finally take a breath. Gov. Ned Lamont announced the mask mandate will end for all students Feb. 28. For too long, our children and teens have been forced to cover most of their faces at a crucial time of development and self-identity, a time when relationships are formed, and a smile or a smirk matters. Is it too much to ask? Once again they can yawn, smile, frown, sneeze, snicker, pucker their lips, blow a kiss. No longer will they be muffled, able to hide their disgust behind a mask. For some it has been depressing, and for others too easily accepted. Those days are coming to an end.

Not everyone agrees. The unions argue that it's too fast and risky as ventilation systems in some schools are not up to par, and maybe they'll bring the virus home to younger, unvaccinated siblings. Parents eager for this day argue our teenagers and children have paid a heavy price and now their time has come to unmask.

Elizabeth Brown, West Hartford

It was a coup; GOP must move on

It's frightening to our democracy that one of America's two major political parties has censured two members for participating in a bipartisan commission to investigate the insurrection. A party that has described the first assault on our Capitol since 1814, when people were breaking windows, smearing feces on the walls, injuring police officers and threatening to "hang Mike Pence," as "legitimate political discourse."

Donald Trump lost by seven million votes. No widespread voter fraud has been found. Trump and Republicans need to move on in order to maintain a viable two-party system. Violently attacking our Capitol is not "legitimate political discourse." It's a coup attempt.

Scott MacDonald, Higganum

Signs say DEEP is trapping bobcats

Why is the Connecticut DEEP using padded leg hold traps to catch and study bobcats? Signs have been posted in Bloomfield and surrounding towns stating that foothold traps are set in these areas for bobcat research. We are led to believe that these padded leg hold traps will not harm the animal, but we're talking about frightened, shy animals who will do anything to escape. The DEEP was set up to protect our wildlife. I have a serious problem with how they are carrying out that mission with this program.

Susan King, New Hartford



The Rev. Erica Thompson, chaplain for the Connecticut House of Representatives, says the opening of the legislative session last week was met with a level of vitriol outside the Capitol that brought fears of Jan. 6, 2021, to mind. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

OP-ED

I faced ugly actions, words. I will never give up hope.

By Erica Thompson

Reflections from a chaplain for the House of Representatives in Connecticut ...

WARNING: crude language (not mine) but I won't bear the responsibility of cleaning up after others, so here goes ... Tuesday was the opening of the Connecticut legislative session. I knew, even when I awoke at 5:30 a.m., that the day was probably going to be a bit messy, emotionally speaking, as there are a lot of big emotions about how we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. Masking our kids at school being top of the list.

But wow!

As I walked into the Connecticut Capitol building, a man (with a small child by his side) called out to me with "Hey b---!" When I looked over at him he continued with, "Yeah you, you commie traitor!" And then, he proceeded to spit on the ground in front of me. I could feel my heart begin to beat a bit faster and my breath shorten.

Truth be told, I can be triggered quite easily by white men hurling misogynistic insults. So, I prayed a short prayer (for him and for me) and kept moving.

Once in the building, I was amazed by the difference a year can make. Last year, at the height of the pandemic, the Connecticut legislative session opened with minimal pomp and circumstance. I did the opening prayer for the House of Representatives to a mostly empty chamber while legislators connected virtually.

Not the case this year. So many people. Democrats, Republicans, staffers, reporters, cameras — you could feel the energy, it was

kinetic, and dare I say, hopeful.

When the Joint Session was called to order, the Senate's Jewish chaplain opened by reciting words from the prophet Jeremiah and praying an absolutely beautiful prayer. Then, the holy moment was pierced by sirens and drums and an angry cacophony of voices shouting out. The rabbi's holy words inside the chamber mixed together with the human vitriol being spewed outside.

As I sat off to the side of the dais, I could once again feel my heart begin to beat faster, my breath shorten and a knot in the pit of my stomach take shape. Hard as I tried to focus on the governor's speech, images of Jan. 6, 2021, made their claim upon my imagination. I realized I was scared and I found myself wondering how those inside the U.S. Capitol last January felt.

After the governor finished I was called upon to give the final benediction. Approaching the dais, I explained that the word benediction simply means "blessing" and my blessing to all gathered was this:

May the words you speak
May the words you hear and understand
Be holy
May your actions
May the actions of all others
Be sacred
May your humanity be honored
May you honor the humanity of all others
And may each one of you go forth bearing light, grace, compassion, and love out into a world desperately in need of you.
Blessings and peace be upon us all! Amen.
As I left the chamber, I realized that I had

to go through the group of angry protesters to get to my car.

Steeling myself, I said a prayer (for them and me) and just as I stepped off the curb, I heard a Capitol police officer quietly say: "You're not alone, I'll be right by your side."

And the insults began again.

"Take off your (expletive) mask and let us see your face, you traitor b---," yelled one woman. Pulling down my mask I replied, "I am neither a traitor nor a b----- I'm a chaplain."

Seemingly confused, she said, "Well, you have a beautiful smile."

The absurdity of the interaction made me laugh. As we approached my car, the police officer who was escorting me, said, "Bravo, those were some of the best de-escalation tactics I have seen employed all day!"

I thanked him profusely for delivering me safely to my car, closed the door, and fell apart.

Tears of anger
Tears of relief
Tears of sadness

My heart aches this week for this world and for the terrible harm we needlessly inflict upon each other. We must do better! Raising up three beautiful girls I will never give up hope. And may each one of you go forth bearing light, grace, compassion and love out into a world desperately in need of you. Paz!

The Rev. Erica Thompson, senior pastor of the Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford, serves as the chaplain for the State House of Representatives

OP-ED

NATO works. That may surprise you.

By Mark A. Boyer

As we watch current events unfold in Central Europe, NATO is working just as it was designed in 1949. That might surprise you. But as the adage goes, NATO was formed "to keep the Americans in, the Russians out and the Germans down."

Created as a Cold War structure to help confront Soviet aggression, NATO was also seen as one piece in the post-World War II global architecture aimed at avoiding another world war. In cooperation with organizations such as the IMF and World Bank and more, these structures helped solidify an American view of the global community that remains fundamental to global politics today.

But when the Soviet Union crumbled in the early 1990s, many analysts predicted the demise of NATO as well. What would NATO do without its central anti-Soviet mission? Rather quickly, though, NATO found missions in Bosnia and elsewhere, accepted new members mostly from the former Soviet bloc and became the de facto political-military companion to the European Union. In particular, the admission of former Soviet bloc countries into NATO membership directly hedged against a Russian resurgence on the European landscape.

Now here we are in 2022 with Russia at least superficially revitalized under Putin and working to flex his military muscle in and around Ukraine. In working to reestablish a Russian sphere of influence in central and Eastern Europe, Putin can do little about the countries that joined NATO over the past 25 years. But he can position his soldiers, tanks and other equipment around

Ukraine and poke and prod to see what resolve exists within NATO about confronting renewed Russian expansionist interests.

So far, under President Joe Biden, we've seen the "keep the Americans in" pillar of NATO hold firm. From 2017 to 2020, we saw the mixed American signals from the Trump administration where the former president cultivated his bromance with Putin, while most of his other advisers followed more traditionally hawkish views toward Russian intentions and action. Over the past year, the Biden team in collaboration with its NATO allies has been relatively coordinated in their willingness to stand firm against Putin's coercive intentions over Ukraine.

One tricky part, however, in maintaining NATO solidarity, is the various trade relationships that exist between Russia and some NATO allies. Most notably among those relationships is Russian natural gas supplies to Germany and several other crucial allies.

Ironically, this type of potential leverage is exactly why President Ronald Reagan opposed the building of the gas pipeline from the then-Soviet Union to Western Europe in the 1980s. Reagan feared that this type of supply leverage for a crucial raw material could be used in exactly this type of circumstance. This also is why the Biden team has been so quick in recent weeks to reassure Europeans of the potential for American gas supplies in the months ahead.

It's also worth noting, however, that the third pillar of "keep the Germans down" has changed to "keep the Germans prosperous and actively involved in decision-making" Similar to the emergence of right-wing

forces in the United States and many other countries, Germany has had to grapple with both its tragic history and its ongoing share of troubling internal political forces.

That said, Germany remains the largest economy in the European Union, is a major global financial player and for decades has been a force for political moderation and stability throughout Europe and around the world. German leadership in many forums, in collaboration with the United States, is and will continue to be crucial to the ongoing stability of NATO and the resolution of the Ukraine conflict and more.

So while NATO indeed is operating the way it was designed to operate, that doesn't mean that it will succeed in deterring Russian designs in Ukraine and beyond. But it is a solid foundation for what remains of American global leadership now and for some years to come.

The biggest question mark, however, is what role China might play in helping to ease any sanctions against Russia. The prospect of a Chinese-Russian alliance of the moment isn't something anyone in Washington or European capitals wishes to see. While both are major global players, both also have quite narrowly nationalistic views of their appropriate role in the world. How those nationalistic tendencies play out in the longer term will likely determine whether NATO continues its relevance even further into the future and whether its successful design persists.

Mark A. Boyer is a Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor at UConn. He is author of "International Cooperation and Public Goods" and co-author of "Defensive Internationalism."



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& Tools.

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860-653-2551



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ANTOLIAN SHEPARD PUPPIES
8 week old puppies ready to go home
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tents of machine shops, home worksho-
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Bottles, Cocks, Jugs, Toys, Games,
Silver Plated Items, Costume Jewelry,
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Clocks, Tools, Xmas, Lanterns, Oil
Lamps, Glassware, Knives, Hunting,
Fishing, Books. 860-874-8396



BUYING PRE1980 Toys, Model Kits,
Comic Bks, Baseball Card Posters &
Cards, Pennants, Political, Postcards,
Beer, Bar, Soda, Oil & Gas Station
Cans&Signs, License Plates, Jewelry,
Masonic & Fraternal Items, Zippos, I
check Bsmnt/Attic. 860-817-4350



PINBALL MACHINES - CASH PAID
We are looking to buy pinball
machines in any condition and will do
all moving. Call today! 860 986 4055

Announcements

Lost/Found

IMPOUND - #175, Chihuahua Male,
Tan & White. Call Hartford PD 860-
757-4000

Real Estate

Rentals

WEST HARTFORD
WAITING LIST OPENING
THE RESIDENCES AT 540 NEW PARK

The Residences at 540 New Park
will be accepting pre-applications
for apartments located at 540 New
Park Avenue, West Hartford CT 06110.
Eligibility for these units is subject to
household income limits and other
eligibility criteria under the federal
Low-Income Housing Tax Credit
(LIHTC) Program.

Current 2021-2022 LIHTC Maximum
Income Limits:

1 PERSON - \$43,860
2 PERSONS - \$50,100
3 PERSONS - \$56,340
4 PERSONS - \$62,580

Rents will range from approximately
\$837-\$1033 for a one bedroom and
\$995-\$1230 for a two bedroom unit
depending on household income level
(prices subject to change).

Interested applicants must apply
between February 16, 2022 and May
17, 2022 11:59pm. Applicants may
apply by:
- Submitting a pre-application online
at www.540NewPark.com; or
- Requesting a paper pre-application
be mailed to the applicant, which
must be returned by mail to
ATTENTION: Residences at 540 New
Park Waitlist 800 Shield Street, West
Hartford CT 06110 with a postmark
date between February 16, 2022 and
May 10, 2022, and received no later
than May 17, 2022; or
- Requesting an appointment during
the application period if assistance
is needed to complete the pre-
application. Please note: Assistance
with completing the application will
be offered by appointment ONLY due
to the current COVID Pandemic.

If you have a disability and require a
Reasonable Accommodation, please
call 860-993-7109.

Only one pre-application per family
will be accepted; duplicate pre-
applications will be disqualified.

This pre-application is accessible
through any computer, tablet or smart
phone. After successfully completing
the pre-application, you may print the
confirmation of successful completion
of your application.

The Residences at 540 New Park will
use a Random-Draw Lottery System
to determine the waiting list order
from all applications.

The Residences at 540 New Park
does not discriminate in admission or
access to its housing or programs. Any
eligible individual with disabilities will
be served. Those who have visual or
hearing impairments will be provided
with the necessary information to
understand and participate in the
program. Efforts will be coordinated
to comply with the nondiscrimination
requirements of the Fair Housing Act.
This is an equal opportunity housing
development. www.540NewPark.com

COCKAPOO PUPPIES \$1400 860-

942-2651, Vetted, Current on Vacs

Steve Dale's
PET WORLD
Sundays in Smarter Living



MINI GOLDENDOODLE Puppies. 3
males/3 females. Beautiful Red
color. Family raised in Hoosick
Falls, NY. 1st shots, vet exam,
microchipped. 2 year health
guarantee. Ready Feb 26. Will text
photos. \$2,800. Call/text 802-282-
2232

Car Reviews
Saturdays in
MOTORING

Auto & SUV's

MERCEDES-BENZ E-CLASS 2015
\$27499.00 Beautiful Mint!!! 2015
Mercedes Benz E350 8605188587

TOYOTA CAMRY 2010 - \$8,000 Low
Mileage. 860-836-0651

Car Reviews
Saturdays in
MOTORING

Antiques/ Classics

PORSCHE 914 1974 - \$2200 Solid
Rolling Chassis Call No Txt 860-
209-6629

Auto / Truck Wanted

CASH PAID
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Connecticut

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, STATE OF FLORIDA
FAMILY LAW DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF: Case No.: 21-DR-017148
H.D.N. Division: A

Adoptee. _____

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS AND STEPPARENT ADOPTION

TO: Milagros Monique Ortiz, biological mother of the male child born on March 13, 2009
Current Residence Address: Unknown
Last Known Residence Address: 26 Sherman Street, Apt. B3, Hartford, CT, 06105
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Joint Petition for Adoption by Stepparent and Termination
of Parental Rights has been filed by Petitioner Erica Diaz, and father, Ferdinand Nunery, Jr.,
regarding a minor male child born to Milagros Monique Ortiz on March 13, 2009, in the Bronx,
New York. The biological mother is Hispanic, 34 years old, approximately 5'7" tall and 175 lbs.,
with brown hair and brown eyes. All other physical characteristics and her residence address
are unknown and cannot be reasonably ascertained.
There will be a hearing on the Joint Petition for Adoption by Stepparent and Termination of
Parental Rights on March 29, 2022, at 11:45am eastern time, before Judge Jared E. Smith at the
George E. Edgecomb Courthouse, 800 East Twigg Street, Courtroom 411, Tampa, Florida
33602. The Court has set aside 15 minutes for the hearing which will be held via Zoom at the
following link: <https://zoom.us/j/96980509625?pwd=VE0wV99XkdZlJkQ0R0TnltbVRC6YU09>.
Zoom Meeting ID: 969 8050 9625. Zoom phone number: (786)635-1003. The grounds for
termination of parental rights are those set forth in §63.089 of the Florida Statutes.
You may object by appearing at the hearing and filing a written objection with the Court. If you
desire counsel and believe you may be entitled to representation by a court-appointed attorney,
you must contact the Clerk of Court and request that an "Affidavit of Indigent Status" be mailed
to you for completion and return to the Office of the Clerk of Court.
A copy of any written defenses must be served on Petitioner's attorney, Melissa A. Cordon, P.A.,
806 East Jackson Street, Suite Lower A, Tampa, Florida 33602, (813)223-1177, and file the
original response or pleading with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Hillsborough County, Florida,
800 East Twigg Street, Tampa, Florida 33602, (813)276-8100, on or before March 4, 2022,
a date which is a date not less than 28 nor more than 60 days after the first publication of this
Notice.

UNDER §63.089, FLORIDA STATUTES, FAILURE TO FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THIS NOTICE
WITH THE COURT AND TO APPEAR AT THIS HEARING CONSTITUTES GROUNDS UPON WHICH
THE COURT SHALL END ANY PARENTAL RIGHTS YOU MAY HAVE REGARDING THE MINOR CHILD.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in
this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance.
Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Hillsborough County Courthouse, (813)272-7040. Hearing
impaired 1-800-955-8771. Voice impaired 1-800-955-8770, email ADA@jud13.org at least 7
days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification.
If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Name of Newspaper: Hartford Courant

Dated: January 28, 2022
CINDY STUART
CLERK OF COURT & COMPTROLLER
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY FLORIDA

1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19/2022 7125913

Hartford

FUTURES INC ROOF PROJECT

The scope of work as outlined for the Futures
Inc Roof replacement project at 158 Broad
Street, Middletown CT 06457. Futures Inc a
non profit in Middletown, Ct, an EOE, seeks
bids on project funded by the Community
Development Block Grant funding subject to
Davis Bacon prevailing wages requirements
and certified payroll. Contractor pulls all
permits in accordance with the City of
Middletown, meets all OSHA requirements,
Workers Compensation Requirement/
General Liability and SHPO rules and regula-
tions. Project:
-Demo Complete roof down to deck
-Install new metal drip and rake edge
-Roll on ice and water on the first 6ft of build-
ing per code
-Tape all seams and cover with synthetic
roofing paper
-Cover with new GAF shingle color of choice
-Install new pipe boots
-Install 4 Squares of slate roofing
-Flat roof in rear-replace/fix
Contractor responsible for cleanup and
disposal of all discarded materials. Call
Tracey O'Brien at 860-347-5099 ext 227 or
send a bid to Futures Inc, 902 South Quaker
Lane, West Hartford, CT 06110 by 3/6/22.
Construction to commence no later than
4/15/22.
2/18/22/22 7151327

Legal Notice
Town of Wethersfield
Planning and Zoning Commission
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

The Wethersfield Planning and Zoning
Commission will hold a virtual public hearing
on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Because of Covid-19 concerns, this will
be virtual and/or phone conferencing. Please
check the Town of Wethersfield website for
the live stream link prior to the meeting.
to hear and be heard on the following
applications:

2100-22-Z Bryce Hardy seeking a
Special Permit in accordance with Section
5.2.F.2 (Permitted Uses-Outdoor Dining) of
the Wethersfield Zoning Regulations for a
temporary patio with a service station at 161
Main Street.

Planning and Zoning Commission
Denise Bradley
Duly Authorized
Dated at Wethersfield, Connecticut, this 18th
day of February 2022.

2/19/22 7154400

LEGAL NOTICE

West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District
580 Cottage Grove Road, Suite 100,
Bloomfield, CT
Virtual Public Hearing

The West Hartford Bloomfield Health District
will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March
01, 2022 at 4pm via Zoom to receive com-
ments on the proposed Fiscal Year 2022-
2023 Health District budget. Copies may be
obtained from the West Hartford-Bloomfield
Health District office or on the Health
District's website, www.westhartfordct.gov/health. The public hearing will be conducted
exclusively as a virtual public hearing in
accordance with Governor Lamont's execu-
tive orders regarding the conduct of public
meetings and proceedings.
Any interested person(s) may participate in
the public hearing by calling at the scheduled
date and time and using the following access
code:
March 1, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. Zoom Meeting
ID: 842 4998 4990 Call: +1 301 715 8592
Access Code: 323515
Participants using caller ID blocking will not
be permitted to participate. Participants will
be muted upon entry into the public hearing
and only unmuted once prompted by the
Chair/Moderator.
2/15-2/26/22 7143536

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT SUPERIOR COURT JUVENILE MATTERS

ORDER OF NOTICE

Notice To: Kalleh Fraser, mother of child born
on 7/31/18
of parts unknown.
A petition has been filed seeking:
Commitment of minor child(ren) of the above
named or vesting of custody and care of said
child(ren) of the above named in a lawful,
private or public agency or a suitable and
worthy person.

Hearing on an Order of Temporary Custody
will be heard on 2/25/22 @ 10:30am
at SCJM, 25 School Street, Rockville, CT
06066
Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the
hearing of this petition be given by publishing
this Order of Notice once, immediately upon
receipt, in the Hartford Courant, a newspaper
having a circulation in the town/city of
Wethersfield, CT

Judge: Hon. Dawne Westbrook
Signed: Betty Skipper, Clerk
Date Signed: 2/17/2022

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to
pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure an
attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public
Defender. Request for an attorney should be
made immediately in person, by mail, or by
fax at the court office where your hearing is
to be held.
2/19/2022 7153698

LEGAL NOTICE

**THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM, WEST
HARTFORD CONNECTICUT
SECOND REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
AND PROPOSALS**

DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT SERVICES February 20, 2022

The Children's Museum in West Hartford
Connecticut will receive sealed statements
of qualifications and proposals (the SECOND
RFQ/RFP) for development consultant ser-
vices for a capital campaign feasibility and
planning study related to relocation of its
West Hartford facilities until 2:00 p.m. (Local
Time), March 2, 2022.

The documents comprising the Second
Request for Qualification/Proposal will be
available by email from Dr. Michael Werle,
PhD, Executive Director of The Children's
Museum (Owner) at mwerle@thechildrensmuseumct.org beginning February 21, 2022
at 12:00 p.m. (Local Time). Should proposers
require assistance in obtaining the RFQ/P
document, please contact Stephanie Honnell
at (860) 726-7247 or at shonnell@thechildrensmuseumct.org.

The Children's Museum reserves the right
to amend or terminate this Second Request
for Qualification and Proposal, to reject any
or all respondents, to request additional
information, to waive any informalities or
non-material deficiencies in a response, and
to take any and all other action that, in the
Museum's sole judgment, will be in its best
interests.
2/19-20/2022 7151657

STATE OF CONNECTICUT SUPERIOR COURT JUVENILE MATTERS

ORDER OF NOTICE

Notice to Marquise Cauton, father of child
born on 09/01/07 to Wilmarie B. of parts
unknown

A petition has been filed seeking:
Commitment of minor child(ren) of the above
named or vesting of custody and care of said
child(ren) of the above named in a lawful,
private agency or a suitable and worthy person.
The petition, whereby the court's decision
can affect your parental rights, if any,
regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on
3/22/2022 @ 2:00 PM at Superior Court,
Juvenile Matter, 920 Broad Street, Hartford,
CT 06106

Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the
hearing of this petition be given by publishing
this Order of Notice once, immediately upon
receipt, in the Hartford Courant, a newspaper
having circulation in the town/city of:
Hartford, CT

Judge: Hon. Michael Dannehy
Signed: Debra A. Rubert - Clerk
Date Signed: 2/15/2022

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to
pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure that
an attorney is provided to you by the Chief
Public Defender. Request for an attorney
should be made immediately in person, by
mail, or by fax at the court office where your
hearing is to be held.

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to
pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure an
attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public
Defender. Request for an attorney should be
made immediately in person, by mail, or by
fax at the court office where your hearing is
to be held.
2/19/2022 7154180

STATE OF CONNECTICUT SUPERIOR COURT JUVENILE MATTERS

ORDER OF NOTICE

Notice To: Jessica Chacras, mother of child
born on 1/28/22
of parts unknown.

A petition has been filed seeking:
Commitment of minor child(ren) of the above
named or vesting of custody and care of said
child(ren) of the above named in a lawful,
private or public agency or a suitable and
worthy person.

The petition, whereby the court's decision
can affect your parental rights, if any,
regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on:
3/25/22 @ 12:00 pm at SCJM 25 School
Street, Rockville, CT 06066
Hearing on an Order of Temporary Custody
will be heard on 2/25/22 @ 9:30am at
SCJM, 25 School Street, Rockville, CT
06066
Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the
hearing of this petition be given by publishing
this Order of Notice once, immediately upon
receipt, in the Hartford Courant, a newspaper
having a circulation in the town/city of
Enfield, CT

/s/ Hon. Dawne Westbrook
/s/ Betty Skipper
Date signed 2/15/22

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to
pay for a lawyer, the court will make sure an
attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public
Defender. Request for an attorney should be
made immediately in person, by mail, or by
fax at the court office where your hearing is
to be held.
2/19/2022 7151711

Watertown CT Minority Opportunity –
Siktkown Roofing is currently soliciting
SBE/MBE/DBE subcontractors for Public
Notice: Watertown CT- DEEP New West
District Headquarters Blackrock State Park
Watertown (re-bid): Trades, portable rest-
rooms. Material Supply Flatstock Metal. Our
bid submits on Thursday, February 24, 2022.
If additional time is needed for your submis-
sion please call our estimating department.
Interested parties are asked to contact us at
subcontracting@silktownroofing.com.
An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity
Employer.
2/19/2022 7153742

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
AVAILABLE FOR
HARTFORD SCHOOL READINESS GRANT
PROGRAM
Open Bid Process
THE FISCAL YEAR 2023
(JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023)

Connecticut General Statutes: Sections
10-160 through 10-16r and Sections 10-16t
through 10-16u

The City of Hartford is making available a
Local Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit
interested center-based preschool programs
in operating a School Readiness Program for
the period July 1, 2022– June 30, 2023. The
purpose of the School Readiness grant is to
provide support for early care and education
programs that service children ages 3 and
4 to provide a quality preschool experience.
Applicants must be willing and able to comply
with all legislated mandates and general
policies. To view them please use this link:
<http://www.ct.gov/oe/generalpolicies>.
Programs interested in participating in the
open-bid process for the School Readiness
Grant Program should attend the Bidders
Conference on February 24th, 2022, at
9:00am on zoom.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86826046560?pwd=YWY4SDdvU1lNXXQ5RmMydUyVYU1lZD09>
Also, programs are required to contact
Katie McGinnis by March 10th, 2022, for a
copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) and
Guidelines.

Katie McGinnis
Administrative Operations Manager
City of Hartford
500 Main Street, Suite 306
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
860-757-9884
katie.mcginis@hartford.gov

Completed Local Request for Proposals for
School Readiness Grant Program must be
submitted electronically to Katie McGinnis
by March 22nd, 2022. Additionally, original,
hard-copy and two copies of the completed
Request for Proposal must be mailed or
hand-delivered by March 22nd, 2022.
IRRESPECTIVE OF THE POSTMARK DATE.
2/19/2022 7154088

OBITUARIES BY TOWN

- Avon
Henry Mazzie
- Bristol
Gary A. Johnston
- Farmington
Henry Mazzie
- Hartford
Arnoldo Ballestas
Eugene Baranowski
Angelo G. Scalise
Theodore S. Sikora, Jr.
- Hebron
Theodore S. Sikora, Jr.
- Manchester
Andrea A. Olesnevich
- Middletown
George E Dupree
- New Britain
Eugene Baranowski
- Old Saybrook
George E Dupree
- Other Towns in CT
Betty Guiheen
Eileen M. Shover
- Out of State
Gary A. Johnston
- Rocky Hill
Angelo G. Scalise
- Simsbury
Rosemary S. Conard
- Tolland
Andrea A. Olesnevich
- Vernon
Betty Guiheen
- West Hartford
Rosemary S. Conard
- Windsor
John J. Gasparino
- OUT OF STATE
John J. Gasparino
Scottsdale, AZ

* Denotes name listing only.
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Ballestas, Arnoldo



Arnoldo Ballestas, 85, of Hartford, loving husband to Rosa (Roldan) Ballestas, peacefully passed away at home Tuesday, February 15, 2022. Relatives and friends may pay their respects to the Ballestas family Wednesday, February 23rd from 5 to 7 p.m. at the D’Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Thursday, February 24th at 11 a.m. in St. Augustine Church, 10 Campfield Avenue, Hartford (Attendees are requested to meet directly at the church). Interment will follow the Mass in Cedar Hill Cemetery, (Section 35), 453 Fairfield Ave., Hartford. To read the full obituary and to leave expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopofuneralchapel.com.



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Gasparino, John James



John James Gasparino, 82, of Scottsdale, AZ and formerly of Windsor, passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 12, 2022. Born in Hartford on August 30, 1939, son of the late John J. and Eleanor (Norris) Gasparino, he was raised in Windsor and was a graduate of Windsor High School. After high school, John served in the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged



in 1958 and returned to Windsor. John served the community of Windsor as a part of the Windsor Police Department for over 29 years and was also a volunteer fireman with the Hayden Station Fire Department. In his spare time, he enjoyed hunting and was an avid sportsman and amateur gunsmith. He loved having conversations with strangers and catching up friends. John left to join his parents, John and Eleanor Gasparino, and his beloved daughter, Christine M. Gasparino, who predeceased him. He leaves his wife, Lisa Gasparino of East Granby; his son, Daniel Gasparino and his wife Christina of Scottsdale, AZ; his best buddies, his grandsons, Johnny and Peter Gasparino; three sisters, Mary Margaret Christo of Milford, Eleanor Levesque and her husband Fred of Windsor, and Marlene Migliore of Port St. Lucie, FL; a brother, Joseph Gasparino and his wife Anita of Venice, FL; and many nieces and nephews. A visitation will be held on Monday, February 21, 4-7 p.m., at the Carmon Windsor Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor. A Mass of Christian Burial will be Celebrated on Tuesday, February 22, 10 a.m., at St. Damien of Molokai Parish-St. Joseph Church, 1747 Poquonock Ave., Windsor. Burial with Military Honors will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery, in the Poquonock section of Windsor. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Christine M. Gasparino Memorial Fund, c/o Windsor Federal Savings, 250 Broad St., Windsor, CT 06095 for the benefit of students and teachers in the field of science and in memory of his daughter Christine, or to the Windsor Historical Society, 96 Palisado Ave., Windsor, CT 06095. For online condolences, please visit, www.carmonfuneralhome.com.



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Guiheen, Betty (Herring)



Betty (Herring) Guiheen, 96, of Vernon, beloved wife of late Patrick Guiheen passed away February 18, 2022 in the comfort of her own home. Betty was born June 21, 1925 in Montpelier, VT and is the daughter of late Lucius and Ethel Herring.

Betty loved a good road trip or vacationing with her family in years past. These vacations were often to cabins rented sight unseen as part of the adventure and a chance for everyone to be under one roof again. Throughout her life she loved a good honky tonk song, any sassy saying, and anything published by Danielle Steel. She loved many more things as well but none more than her family, as anyone who visited her could easily see by her extensive photograph collection.

Besides her loving husband and parents, she was predeceased by her siblings and three of her children Patrick (Debra) Guiheen, Rosemary Guiheen, and Kathleen Slater. Betty is survived by her children Michael (Jean) Martin, Evelyn (Chuck) Paine, and Philip (Cindy) Martin and Debra Guiheen. A joy of Betty’s life were her numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. Betty had a generous heart and open door to anyone who needed it. She was instrumental in raising her grandchildren Sarah (Slater) Berard and Pearl Julian. Betty was predeceased by her best friend, Helen.

Being at home was of great importance to Betty and her family was able to give her this comfort with the help of the Vernon Visiting Nurses of CT, for that we are truly grateful.

Relatives and friends may join the family on Sunday, February 20, from 2-4 p.m. at the Burke-Fortin Funeral Home, 76 Prospect Street, Rockville.

All services will be private at the convenience of the family. For online condolences please visit: www.pietrasfuneralhome.com

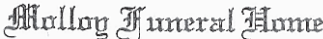
Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

OBITUARIES

Conard, Rosemary S.



Rosemary S. Conard, 98, passed from this life February 15, surrounded by her family. The redheaded tomboy grew up in Bristol, the daughter of Horace and Dorothy Staples, keeping her finger on the pulse of the Clock City as she cruised along on roller skates collecting stray cats to bring home. While completing her degree at Skidmore College she met another redhead, John Hand Conard, while both were members of a wedding party. Upstaging both VE and VJ Day celebrations, they were married in the fall of 1945 while John was serving in the Army in Oakland, California. Following some months living in the Bay Area the couple settled in West Hartford, building their dream house near Woodridge Lake. It was a good thing Rosie had been a Girl Mariner in her youth, as she married into a sailing family. Ultimately she, John and their kids were able to enjoy family sailing for many summers aboard their sloop “Rigoler”, taking them to points and adventures all along the New England coast. When not sailing, Rosie could be found swimming at Woodridge Lake in the summer or on the ski slopes in winter. Always moving, always active! Rosie transitioned from stray cats to Newfoundlands, ultimately owning five of the gentle giants. For many years she was a familiar sight walking her Newfies around Woodridge Lake. Rosie is survived by her son Taylor Huntington Conard and his wife Marcia of Greenfield Center, NY, and her daughter Kyle MacNiven Conard and her husband Richard Malley of Simsbury; grandchildren Stephen Conard, Julia Conard, John Conard-Malley and his partner Katherine Friedrich, Will Conard-Malley and his fiancé Emily Galbraith, Jim Toman and his wife Jackie, and five great-grandchildren. The family would like to thank home health aides Paola, Eva and Natalie and the hospice staff at UConn Health Center for their care. Interment will be private and a memorial service is planned at Old St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Bloomfield, CT on Saturday, February 26 at 1:00 PM. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made in Rosie’s memory to Old St. Andrews Episcopal Church, (59 Tariffville Road, Bloomfield, CT 06002) or Newfoundland Club of New England Charitable Fund (P.O. Box 659, Belmont, NH 03220). Online expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com



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Olesnevich, Andrea Ann (Tomko)



Andrea Tomko Olesnevich, 75, daughter of the late Andrew and Anna Tomko, passed away from COVID on February 11th, 2022 at Sarasota Memorial Hospital with her husband and children by her side. A bit about this remarkable woman whom we were so fortunate to call wife and mom.

A 50 yr resident of Tolland, CT, Andrea and her husband Mike raised 3 children with solid roots, who in turn gave them windows into the worlds of photography, education and NASCAR. In turn, her children gave her six incredible grandchildren whom she sought every opportunity to celebrate and spoil, a legacy Mike will now continue.

A woman of unparalleled character, Andrea prioritized family, friendship and service to others. Her smile lit up each room she entered, her heart held space for everyone, and her vocabulary did not include the word “no.”



Andrea had an extraordinary memory for details and was gifted with spectacular organization skills. She could recall dates, times, names, locations as though yesterday. Whether documents from years past or photos from travels and trips abroad, Andrea had a system that let her find any and everything.

Her days were full with never ending projects for others. Andrea’s need for organization left her more than irritated with the chaos on Mike’s work bench and in his tool box and regularly threatened to organize both for him. That threat alone usually got him to shape up.

Andrea had a tenacious spirit and an epic capacity for projects that helped friends and family. She kept busy with these family projects and made time to give back by volunteering at the Hockanum Valley Community Council. Andrea found tremendous joy in doing for others. Regardless of her schedule or self-imposed work load, she always found time to help someone else’s day shine brighter.

Curious by nature, Andrea loved to learn. Whether it was time spent researching her family’s ancestry, planning local adventures or foreign travel, Andrea’s thirst for knowledge led her back to Eastern Connecticut State University, where she earned another degree, graduating with honors, at the age of 56.

Born with a green thumb, Andrea enjoyed all facets of gardening. She could identify most anything sprouting from the ground and took pleasure in the planning, planting and best crop selection for her daughter’s raised beds. She also dabbled in art and found time to enjoy painting with watercolors.

An avid traveler, Andrea camped, cruised and lodged her way across the continental United States and many European countries with her husband Mike, always returning home with new friends, stories of adventure and of course, souvenirs for everyone. The waters of Alaska and Cape Cod beaches were her favorites.

Aside from Mike, the love of her life for 57 years, Andrea’s second most trusted confidante was her black lab Addie who declined Mike’s attempts to learn new tricks, preferring instead walks or car rides with Andrea.

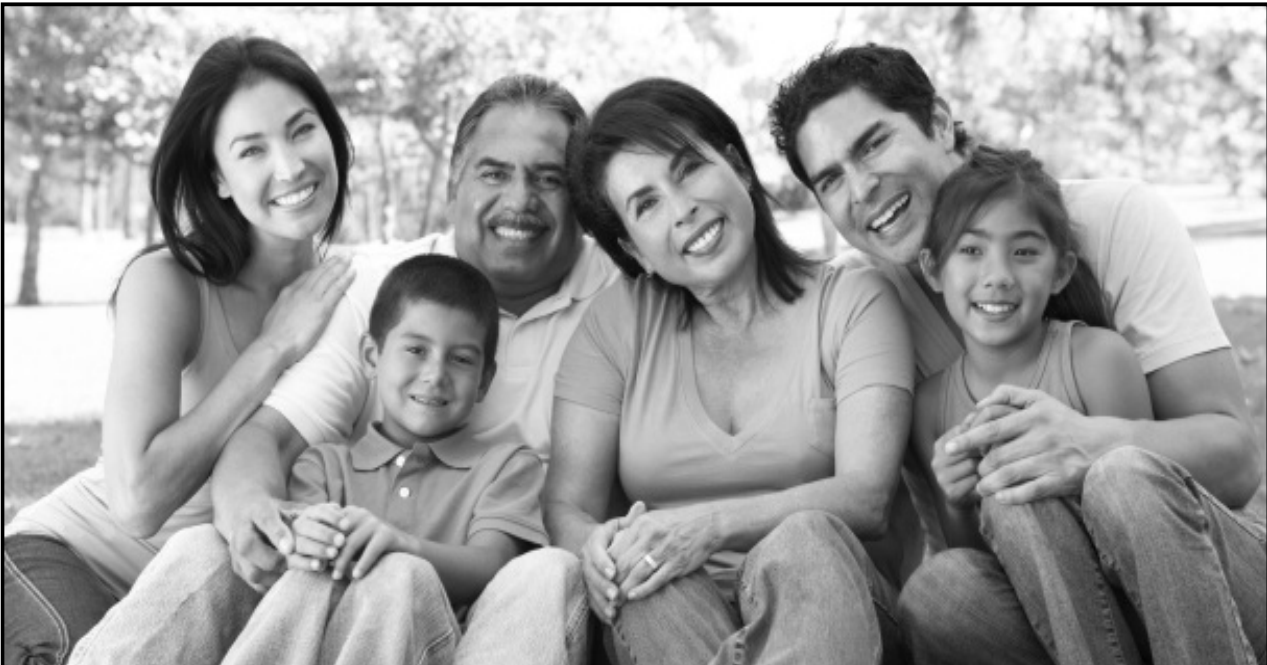
Andrea leaves behind a far reaching circle of family and friends, with whom she cultivated life long relationships. Andrea is survived by her brothers Andrew Tomko(Clifton Park, NY) and his wife Peg, Jim Tomko(Vernon, CT) and his wife Bonnie, and Thomas Tomko(Manchester, CT) and his wife Deb, along with many nieces and nephews. Andrea was blessed to know the depths of friendship, and also leaves behind her childhood best friend of 65 years, Carol Verge Nichelson of Seneca, SC.

Andrea’s extraordinary spirit and legacy will live on in her children; Michael R. Olesnevich(Cynthia Cole) of Ocala, FL, Jenny Naylor(Steven Naylor) of Hamilton, MA and Kathryn Olesnevich(Dr. Karen Baldwin) of Hartford, CT as well as her six grandchildren: Evan Olesnevich, Amina Shakeel, Eliyaan Shakeel, Safina Shakeel, Benjamin Naylor and Ella Naylor.

Andrea will be missed dearly by so many, most especially by her dear husband, Mike, who stole her heart while attending Hartford State Technical College together. Together, he and Addie, will begin organizing the workbench and toolbox in between walks around the block and car rides, while celebrating her spirit and spoiling the grand kids. While we are profoundly saddened by Andrea’s abrupt passing, our lives are inherently richer for having been part of her world.

A Celebration of Life luncheon will be held at Maneeley’s Grand Lodge on Sunday March 13th from 12-4pm. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Andrea’s name to the Hockanum Valley Community Council, 27 Naek Road #4 Vernon, CT, 06066.

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OBITUARIES

Johnston, Gary Andrew



Gary Andrew Johnston, 68, of Crossville, TN, formerly of Bristol, Connecticut, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Sunday, February 6, 2022. He was the husband of Linda (Michaud) Johnston, with whom he shared more than forty years of love, friendship and life adventures. In addition to his wife Linda, he leaves his daughter, Jessica Grossi, her husband Derek, their daughter Avery, and his son, Marc Andrew Johnston. Gary was a loving and devoted father who spent his lifetime working, supporting and raising his children. He took pride with being present in his children and granddaughter's lives, they will cherish those memories forever. Born in Bristol on April 3, 1953, he was one of five children to the late Andrew Johnston and Genevieve (Ptak) Johnston Musshorn. A lifelong resident of Bristol, Gary worked for Eversource, (formerly Northeast Utilities) as an electrician and a proud union member, where he made many friends with his larger-than-life personality and wry sense of humor. He was grateful for and thoroughly enjoyed his five short years of retirement living in Tennessee, going on cross country RV trips, and most recently fulfilling his dream of owning an Aptera (solar electric vehicle). A man of many talents and traits, Gary enjoyed challenging others in games of paintball in his younger years, and could build, fix and engineer almost anything. Remembered for his kind heart and gentle spirit, he loved all creatures great and small, but none more than his four-legged companion, Lucky, who was his best buddy. A devoted husband, father and grandfather, he will be missed beyond words, leaving a legacy of love, laughter and kindness. In addition to his immediate family, Gary leaves behind his siblings, Debbie Lewis, her husband Carl, David, Brian, and Kathy Johnston; and many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. In lieu of flowers, Gary's love for animals may be remembered with contributions to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd, Newington, CT 06111. Family and friends may gather in celebration of Gary's life on Saturday March 5, 2022, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad St, Plainville. Words of remembrance will be shared by the family at 4:00 p.m. Gary will be laid to rest at a later date at St. Joseph Cemetery, Bristol. For online expressions of sympathy, please visit Gary's tribute page at www.PlainvilleFuneralHome.com.



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Baranowski, Eugene

FORESTVILLE - Eugene Baranowski, 96, passed away on Monday, February 14, 2022, at the Jerome Home in New Britain. He was the loving husband of Helen (Magnuson) Baranowski for many years. Eugene was born on May 27, 1925 in New Britain, CT. Eugene served honorably and proudly in the United States Navy. Eugene started his career as an electrician and went on to work for as an electrical contractor in Hartford, CT. Eugene is survived by two sons. Family and friends are invited to attend a visitation on Monday, February 21, 2022 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Bailey Funeral Home, 48 Broad St. in Plainville and on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM followed by a funeral service at 11:00 at Bailey Funeral Home, 48 Broad St. in Plainville. Interment will be private. The Bailey Funeral Home of Plainville has been entrusted with the arrangements. To leave a message of remembrance, please visit www.bailey-funeralhome.com.

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Dupree, George E

George Everett Dupree Jr, 80, of Killingworth, CT passed away unexpectedly on February 11, 2022. He was the son of the late George Everett Dupree and Blanche (Witham) Dupree. He was known for his interest in local history and was a former member of the Board of Directors of the Killingworth Historical Society. He is survived by his wife Susan Dupree of Kansas, OK; his daughter Diana Dupree of Kansas, OK; his son Gregory (Valorie) Dupree of Kansas, OK; his brother Robert Dupree of Cromwell, CT; his sister Sandie (Michael) Johnson of Collins, NY; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by his sister Carole Dupree Roberts, and brother David York. Services will be private.

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Mazzie, Henry

Henry Mazzie, 98, died on January 31, 2022. He was the son of the late Gervasio and Giacoma Mazzei of Hartford. He graduated from Weaver High School in 1944 and then served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He went on to earn B.S. and M.S. degrees from Central Connecticut State University and taught in the West Hartford Public School system for many years before retiring. Henry loved spending time with his family and dogs, and enjoyed playing tennis, fishing, skiing, and traveling throughout the U.S. and Canada on summer road trips with his wife. He is survived by Adele Mazzie, his wife of 77 years, who resides at Brookdale Gables in Farmington, and by his daughter, Kathleen Blits of Annapolis, Maryland.

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Sikora, Theodore JR S

Theodore Sikora Jr. Passed away on Friday February 11, 2022 at home. Ted was predeceased by his parents. Theodore Sikora Sr. and Stella Agnes Kluk Sikora. Ted always woke up smiling, in a good mood. He was a friend to many. He was famous comical antics. His dinner party favorite was spaghetti. His passion was playing the guitar, and computers. Ted worked at a auto parts store for many years. He went back to school to receive a degree in computers. He became a systems administrator for west side properties and small businesses. He always lend a helping hand to his sister Diana. Service will be held at the First Church of Christ, Wethersfield Ct, on Tuesday February 22, 2022 at 10:30 am. In lieu of flowers contributions in his memory may be made to cancer society.

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IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
EDWARD A GONDEK JR.
Feb 19, 1956-Jan 19, 2021

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that came to an end.
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everyone's friend.
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of one we loved,
and will never forget.

Thinking of you today, and everyday..
Miss you terribly.
Your loving wife Sandy,
Your adoring sisters, Donna, Denny and Diane

Scalise, Angelo Giuseppe



Angelo Giuseppe Scalise, 85, of Rocky Hill, beloved husband for 61 years of Emilia (Caruso) Scalise, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on Thursday, February 17, 2022. Born in Pianopoli, Province of Catanzaro, Italy on March 11, 1936, he was the son of the late Francesco and Anita (Mascaro) Scalise. Angelo came to the United States with his father in 1954. A few years later, he went back to Italy for the love of his life, Emilia. Together they returned to the United States to marry and begin their new family. While he maintained his Italian heritage and honored its traditions, he was proud to become an American citizen and make the U.S. their home. Angelo worked at Electro Methods, Inc. as a machinist for over 45 years, but his true passions could be found at home, where he was a wine maker and avid gardener, tending his prized fig trees and vegetable garden, which were the foundations of the many celebrations where he would inspire everyone to join in his singing and dancing. Angelo was always the life of the party with a smile that would light up a room. Summer picnics would become "Christmas in July," including Angelo's special rendition of "Silent Night" and his favorite Italian folksong, "Calabrisella Mia." More than anything, his family was the most important thing to him, and he will be dearly missed by all who knew him. In addition to his devoted wife Emilia, Angelo will be forever missed by his three sons, Frank Scalise and his wife Bela of Rocky Hill, Joseph Scalise and his fiancée Kim Lesay and her children, Saylee and James, all of Manchester and Anthony Scalise and his wife Cristina of Waxhaw, NC and his nine adored grandchildren, Alissa with Danny Conti, Nicholas, Michael, Mathew, Danny, David, Gabriella, Dominic and Isabella. He is also survived by his brother, Joe Scalise of Hartford, as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends in the United States and Italy, including his faithful, four-legged companion, Lupo. He was predeceased by his brother, Emilio Scalise and his sister, Maria Gramuglia. Special thanks to the amazing caregivers at the Bliss 10 Stepdown Unit at Hartford Hospital for their compassionate care and heartfelt sendoff. The family will receive relatives and friends from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday (February 20th) at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield. The Funeral Procession will depart at 9:15 a.m. on Monday (February 21st) from the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel for a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. at St. Josephine Bakhita Parish (St. Elizabeth Seton Church), 280 Brook Street, Rocky Hill. The Mass will be livestreamed via the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel Facebook page. Entombment will follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford. Donations in Angelo's memory may be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284-0692. To share a memory of Angelo with his family, please visit www.desopofuneralchapel.com.



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WORLD & NATION

Teaching is Guard’s latest mission

Soldiers help out amid shortage of educators in NM

By Cedar Attanasio
Associated Press

ALAMOGORDO, N.M. — On past deployments Army National Guard Spc. Michael Stockwell surveilled a desolate section of the U.S.-Mexico border during a migrant surge, and guarded a ring of checkpoints and fences around New Mexico’s state Capitol after the January 2021 insurrection in Washington.

On his current mission, Stockwell helps students as a substitute science teacher at Alamogordo High School.

“You can’t act Army with these kids. You can’t speak the same way you would with another soldier with these kids. You can’t treat them the same way. You have to be careful with corrective actions,” he said with a laugh.

Dozens of National Guard Army and Air Force troops in New Mexico have been stepping in for an emergency unlike others they have responded to before: a shortage of teachers and school staff members that has tested the ability of schools nationwide to continue operating during the coronavirus pandemic.

While many other states and school districts issued pleas for substitute teachers amid omicron-driven surges in infections, New Mexico has been alone in calling out its National Guard members. In 36 of the state’s 89 school districts, guard members have traded in mission briefs for lesson plans.

When Stockwell first walked into the freshman science class, wearing camouflage fatigues and combat boots, some students thought he may have been a recruiter.

Then he took a seat in the teacher’s chair.

“When he started taking



Army National Guard Spc. Michael Stockwell kneels to help Aiden Cruz with a geology assignment on Feb. 8 at a New Mexico high school. CEDAR ATTANASIO/AP

attendance, I was like, ‘Whoa,’” said Lilli Terrazas, 15, of Alamogordo.

Roughly 80 service members have volunteered to work in schools. The troops have gone through background checks and taken brief courses required for substitute teachers. As substitutes, they don’t have to learn much about curriculum, but they need to be attentive to students.

Stockwell has been filling in since late January when his students’ teacher moved to an administrative role in another school. One recent day, he shuffled through the rows of school desks, kneeling to meet students eye-to-eye as he helped them with assignments calculating the depth of the Earth’s crust, and the planet’s other layers.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, a Democrat,

called out the guard to help with the acute shortages in a state that like several others has struggled to find enough educators. At least 100 schools had reported closing down for at least one day this school year.

New Mexico saw a surge of teacher retirements last fall, and there are currently around 1,000 open teaching positions in a state with about 20,000 teachers. Grisham stressed the guard deployment is temporary and state officials are working to bolster the teaching force and school staff through increased pay and other strategies.

In some communities, there have been concerns raised about soldiers going into classrooms.

In Santa Fe, the school district was asked if soldiers would wear uniforms and

carry guns, school district spokesperson Cody Dynarski said. Guns were always out of the question. The district decided that soldiers would wear civilian clothing.

Ultimately, Santa Fe and Albuquerque, two of the largest urban school districts, did not receive any soldiers despite their requests as the deployments have prioritized smaller and more rural school districts.

Elsewhere, when given the choice, some soldiers have opted for military fatigues over civilian clothes to command respect in the classroom, particularly if they’re not much older than their students.

“I think I look like an 18-year-old out of uniform,” said Cassandra Sierra, 22, of Roswell, who has served as a substitute teacher in a high

school in Hobbs.

Sierra already works with kids in her day job as a student coordinator at a military boarding school in Roswell, which has given her an edge as a substitute.

“Kids just need patience,” she said. “I think I just have a lot of patience.”

At a middle school on Alamogordo’s Holloman Air Force Base, students are used to seeing people in uniform, but not in classrooms.

“I was like, ‘Oh, we have somebody in the uniform that’s going to teach us. That’s kinda awkward.’ It was weird,” said Andrew George, 12, of his computer classes led by a woman trained in combat and with experience leading a platoon overseas. “Once she introduced herself I was like ‘Oh yeah, this is going to be fun.’”

The substitute, Lt. Amanda Zollo, works in the 911 dispatch center in Albuquerque when she’s not training or serving with the guard. She kept students on task during a lesson about cybersecurity, as they created and then attempted to break each other’s passwords.

She was subbing for a teacher who was having trouble finding childcare. The principal, Whitney Anderson, said that having Zollo’s services meant that for the first time that week she didn’t have to take over a classroom herself.

Zollo doesn’t talk about her work as an infantry officer with her students, which, after a nervous laugh, she describes as “engaging with and destroying the enemies of the U.S. in close-quarter combat.”

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Lawmakers target mental health crisis

‘Comprehensive’ legislation aimed at expanding support for children garners bipartisan support

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

In response to a deepening crisis of children’s behavioral health in Connecticut, a bipartisan group of state lawmakers Friday unveiled a comprehensive bill aimed at expanding support for mental health care and enhancing preventative services.

“When it comes to children and it comes to youth, there is no political label, there is no political party,” House Speaker Matt Ritter, a Hartford Democrat, said, touting the bipartisan nature of

the legislation. “We all care very, very deeply about our children and the children in this state and their futures.”

Overburdened mental health providers have sounded the alarm about widespread staffing shortages in recent months and on Friday, lawmakers centered on the importance of workforce development. The proposed bill, House Bill 5001, would provide licensure reciprocity for out-of-state mental health professionals, offer loan forgiveness and invest in other efforts to increase staffing, recruitment and retention in

the field, said state Rep. Liz Linehan, a Cheshire Democrat and House chair of the Committee on Children.

“The big issue, which is a long-term issue — five, 10, 15 years — is to increase the number of providers,” said state Rep. William Petit, a Plainville Republican and physician. “We need more psychiatrists, psychologists, psych APRNs, PAs, social workers — all the folks that help care for people with mental health problems.”

State Rep. Tammy Exum, a West Hartford Democrat and deputy



Petit



Exum

majority leader, emphasized that the proposed bill represents not merely a “Band-Aid,” but rather a “comprehensive plan” to address the crisis, including by intervening to support children before they might require hospitalization for behavioral health issues.

The bill would fund the staffing of mental health clinicians in school settings, create evidence-based peer support programs in schools and tackle insurance issues, including by eliminating prior authorization for in-patient care. Increased support for pedi-

atricians — by expanding Access Health CT and enabling pediatricians to receive continuing education related to children’s mental health — is also part of the proposed legislation, as is a requirement that state officials study reimbursement rate parity in mental health care.

State Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, a Westport Democrat, said that the General Assembly’s attention on children’s mental health care was “long overdue.” He stressed that their legislative effort must create a “new long-term paradigm” for supporting behavioral health in Connecticut and not rely solely on temporary federal funds,

Turn to Children, Page 2



Cars pass Purdue Pharma headquarters in 2019 in Stamford. A federal mediator was expected to announce this week whether Purdue Pharma and a group of holdout state attorneys general have been able to reach a new settlement in the OxyContin maker’s bankruptcy case. FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

No deal so far in case of opioid claims vs. Purdue

Mediator could call for still more talks in multibillion-dollar settlement

By Geoff Mulvihill
Associated Press

OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma and a group of states have not been able to agree on a multibillion-dollar settlement of lawsuits over the drug’s role in the opioid crisis after more than a month of mediation.

A mediator could call for still more talks between the parties, Purdue lawyer Marshall Hueb-

ner said at a hearing Thursday, indicating there could be a call for further mediation.

At the hearing, conducted by videoconference from his White Plains, New York, courtroom, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Robert Drain extended until March 3 legal protections for the company and its owners that had been set to expire Thursday to allow more time for a deal.

“This case is too significant to

too many people and governmental entities and other parties of interest to be making knee-jerk reactions in light of a process that is still unfolding,” Drain said.

Stamford, Connecticut-based Purdue and members of the Sackler family who own it have been cast as villains in the opioid overdose and addiction crisis that has claimed the lives of more than 500,000 Americans over the past two decades.

While OxyContin is among the best-known prescription opioids, state, local and Native American governments have been suing — and in many cases, settling with — many other companies that make or distribute drugs over the toll of opioids.

With lawsuits over Purdue’s role mounting, the company filed for bankruptcy protection in 2019.

Turn to Purdue, Page 2

“This case is too significant to too many people and governmental entities and other parties of interest to be making knee-jerk reactions in light of a process that is still unfolding.”

— U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Robert Drain, who has extended legal protections for Purdue Pharma until March 3

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Essential workers could get a boost

State Senate Dems join push for more pandemic ‘hero’ pay

By Susan Haigh
Associated Press

Pressure is growing among lawmakers in Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont’s party to give more “hero pay” to a wider range of essential workers who stayed on the job during the early days of the pandemic.

Democratic state senators said this week that hero pay will be a top priority during the new legislative session — and they want to use Connecticut’s federal COVID-19 relief funds to do it.

Last year, state lawmakers reserved \$22.5 million for hazard pay directed to essential state employees and members of the Connecticut National Guard. Months later, the Lamont administration is still negotiating with state employee unions to determine who should receive the money and how much.

Top leaders of the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives also say they’re interested in possibly expanding the list of who might receive a financial boost. And organized labor for months has been calling for all public and private sector essential workers to receive a financial boost. The Connecticut AFL-CIO passed a resolution in October urging Lamont and Democratic legislators to allocate the remaining federal American Rescue Plan Act dollars for that purpose.

“Until the pandemic, I’m not sure people truly realized how important that grocery store worker is or how important that person who works at the service plaza on the highway is,” said Sen. Julie Kushner, D-Danbury,

Turn to Workers, Page 2

Baby formula recalled after report of bacteria linked to child’s death

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

Connecticut parents already struggling to find baby formula amid a national shortage will find the search even more difficult after a manufacturer’s recall due to sickness and one death reported in four babies in three states, according to the U.S. Food & Drug Administration.

The FDA is advising consumers not to use Similac, Alimentum, or EleCare powdered infant formulas if the first two digits of the code are 22 through 37; the code on the container contains K8, SH or Z2; and the expiration date is April 1, 2022 or later.

Three cases of *cronobacter* infections and one for *salmonella* were reported in Minnesota, Ohio and Texas. *Cronobacter* may have

contributed to the death of one child, the federal agency reported.

At Connecticut Children’s in Hartford, staff have pulled the recalled supply and are using other, unaffected products, hospital spokeswoman Monica Buchanan said Friday.

The hospital also sent a letter to parents who may have gone home with some of the recall supply, describing steps on how to confirm if the formula is part of the recall and to discard and work with the hospital if back-up supply is needed, Buchanan said.

Dr. David Sink, a neonatologist at the hospital, said he had not heard of any infections in Connecticut. The risk is low, Sink said, but the hospital is taking the recall seriously.

“I would hate for parents to become more anxious about

what their babies may have had,” Sink said. “The vast majority of babies are not likely to develop symptoms, but we don’t want to downplay the significance of the recall. We would definitely want any parent to check and see if they have these products and stop using them.”

Abbott Nutrition produced the affected formula at its plant in Sturgis, Michigan. The firm is working with the FDA on a voluntary recall of the potentially affected product, the federal agency reported. The FDA’s inspection of the facility turned up several positive *cronobacter sakazakii* results. A review of the firm’s internal records also indicate environmental contamination with *cronobacter* and the

Turn to Formula, Page 2

State IG investigating police custody death

Norwich man, 42, reportedly collapsed in his cell

By Daniela Altimari
Hartford Courant

The state Office of the Inspector General is investigating the death of a 42-year-old Norwich man while in police custody.

Brenton Chambers was arrested on Feb. 3 by Norwich police for allegedly violating his probation, along with weapons and drug charges.

Chambers was taken to the Norwich Police Department where he went through the booking process, according to the inspector general’s office.

While at the police station, Chambers complained of foot pain and was taken to a local hospital for medical attention.

At 3:58 a.m. the following

morning, Chambers reportedly collapsed in his cell. Police said officers summoned help from emergency medical technicians.

An autopsy has been conducted but the results are pending.

The Connecticut State Police Central District Major Crime Squad is investigating.

The Inspector General’s Office is empowered to investigate all instances of police deadly force and physical force that results in death.

The office was created by the legislature in the summer of 2020, following the murder of George Floyd.

The Inspector General’s Office is also investigating a Norwich police officer’s use of deadly force in an Oct. 26 incident.

CONNECTICUT

Formula

from Page 1

firm's destruction of product due to the presence of the bacteria.

Cronobacter bacteria can cause severe, life-threatening infections (sepsis) or meningitis (an inflammation of the membranes that protect the brain and spine). Symptoms of sepsis and meningitis may include poor feeding, irritability, temperature changes, jaundice (yellow skin and whites of the eyes), grunting breaths and abnormal movements. Cronobacter infection may also cause bowel damage and may spread through the blood to other parts of the body.

Salmonella are a group of bacteria that can cause gastrointestinal illness and fever called salmonellosis. Most people with salmonel-

losis develop diarrhea, fever and abdominal cramps. More severe cases of salmonellosis may include a high fever, aches, headaches, lethargy, a rash, blood in the urine or stool, and in some cases, may become fatal.

"As this is a product used as the sole source of nutrition for many of our nation's newborns and infants, the FDA is deeply concerned about these reports of bacterial infections," said Frank Yiannas, the agency's deputy commissioner for food policy and response. "We want to reassure the public that we're working diligently with our partners to investigate complaints related to these products, which we recognize include infant formula produced at this facility, while we work to resolve this safety concern as quickly as possible."

The recall comes amid a nation-

wide shortage of baby formula. USA Today reported recently that the reasons for the shortage are unclear. Chains like Walmart and CVS blame supply issues, while manufacturers like Gerber, Enfamil and Similac say retailers aren't getting their products into stores once it is delivered, the newspaper reported.

Parents and caregivers of infants who have used these products, and are concerned about the health of their child, should contact their child's health care provider. If your child is experiencing any of these symptoms, you should notify your child's healthcare provider and seek medical care for your child immediately. Products made at the Michigan facility can be found across the U.S. and were likely exported to other countries.

The FDA advisory does not include liquid formula products

or any metabolic deficiency nutrition formulas. Consumers should continue to use all products not covered by the advisory.

Parents and caregivers should never dilute infant formula and should not make or feed homemade infant formula to infants.

If your regular formula is not available, contact your child's healthcare provider for recommendations on changing feeding practices.

The FDA is continuing to investigate and will provide additional consumer safety information when it becomes available.

As part of Abbott's quality processes, the company conducts routine testing for cronobacter sakazakii and other pathogens in manufacturing facilities, according to a company news release. During testing in the Sturgis facility, evidence was found of

cronobacter sakazakii, but no signs of salmonella Newport., the company said. They said the investigation is ongoing.

"Importantly, no distributed product has tested positive for the presence of either of these bacteria, and we continue to test," the company said.

"We know parents depend on us to provide them with the highest quality nutrition formulas," Joe Manning, executive vice president, said in a prepared statement. "We're taking this action so parents know they can trust us to meet our high standards, as well as theirs. We deeply regret the concern and inconvenience this situation will cause parents, caregivers and health care professionals."

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

Purdue

from Page 1

Last year, lawyers for local governments and most states agreed to a deal to settle all the claims against the company.

Members of the Sackler family would give up ownership of the company, which would become a new entity with profits dedicated to fighting the drug crisis. Family members would also contribute \$4.5 billion in cash and charitable assets. In exchange, family members would also be shielded from civil lawsuits over the toll of opioids.

Most attorneys general agreed to the deal, which would have required that most of the money be used to fight the opioid crisis, sent \$750 million to individual victims or their survivors and made public millions of company documents.

But the attorneys general for eight states and the District of Columbia refused to sign on, contending the deal didn't do enough to hold the Sacklers accountable. And after the bankruptcy judge approved the deal, those holdouts prevailed on appeal, persuading another judge last December to reject the settlement by ruling that bankruptcy courts could not provide legal protections to parties not in bankruptcy if others objected.

That ruling prompted a new round of mediation with hundreds of hours of meetings in person, by phone and Zoom to try to reach a deal between the company and the holdout attorneys general representing California, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington state.

In reports filed Jan. 31 and Feb. 8, the mediator, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Shelley Chapman, said a deal including more money from Sackler family members was close. Drain gave the parties a deadline of Wednesday to reach an agreement.

They didn't get there, at least not as of late morning Thursday.

Huebner, the Purdue lawyer, told Drain that he expected Chapman to file a new report by Friday. Other parties have not commented.

In the meantime, a group of seven Democratic U.S. senators this week sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Justice to call for criminal charges against Sackler family members to be considered.



Clarissa Johnson, of Hartford, marches with members of the New England Health Care Employees Union during a July 2020 rally to demand new laws to protect long-term caregivers and consumers at the state Capitol. JESSICA HILL/AP

Workers

from Page 1

co-chair of the labor committee. "These jobs that are often unseen became essential work."

Interim federal rules published last year allow state and local COVID-19 recovery funds to be spent on premium pay for essential workers of up to \$13 per hour, in addition to their regular wages. The amount cannot exceed \$25,000 per employee. Some union leaders have also suggested the state spend budget surplus funds on hero pay.

"It is easy to forget that early in the pandemic, essential workers didn't have regular access to N95s. Vaccines were still a distant dream. But Governor Lamont deemed them essential with the stroke of a pen. And yet they showed up to work every day despite their fear," said Connecticut AFL-CIO President Ed Hawthorne in a recent statement. "Now, as Connecticut is flush with federal grants and a robust Rainy Day Fund, it is time to show up for them by providing pandemic hazard pay."

Connecticut is among a number of cities and states struggling to

determine who among the many workers who braved the raging coronavirus pandemic before vaccines became available should qualify for the extra pay.

Melissa McCaw, Lamont's state budget director, said last week that negotiations with state employee union leaders are continuing and she could not discuss the specifics. When asked if the administration considered expanding the number of recipients beyond the state workers and National Guard members, she said no.

A spokesman for Lamont, who is seeking reelection in November, said previously that the figures

cited by organized labor are "just not feasible."

Senate Democrats did not include a dollar figure or other details of the plan announced Thursday for the pandemic pay.

"There are a lot of discussions taking place about the specific funding number, but those final figures have not been decided at this time," Kushner said in a statement. "We want to hear from essential workers before determining precisely what will be in the bill. It will go to essential workers who worked and went to their place of work regardless of the personal health risk."

Children

from Page 1

including those from the American Rescue Plan Act.

The overall price tag of the legislation will be determined through the legislative process, according to Linehan, who added, "I don't want to talk about spending on children's mental health; I want to talk about investing in children's mental health."

Howard Sovronsky, the chief behavioral health officer of

Connecticut Children's Medical Center, said during the press conference Friday that in recent years, the hospital has seen a "dramatic increase" not only in the number of children seeking urgent behavioral health care, but also the severity of their illnesses.

He noted that efforts have been made to increase the number of psychiatric beds in the state, but that roots of the crisis run much deeper.

"The problem is not beds," he said. "The problem is throughput — it's the flow of patients through-

out the system — and that kids get backed up at various points because of the lack of access, and that creates the urgency for more beds. But the beds is just one piece of a larger fix that needs to be addressed. And frankly, this bill attempts to address many of those areas of pressure points."

Exum described having had heartbreaking conversations with parents whose children needed urgent mental health support but could not obtain it.

"When they were given an opportunity to meet with a

provider, sometimes they were told it might be three months or more," she said. "Three months is a really long time when your child is in crisis and your family is in crisis, and you don't know how you'll get through three days."

A public hearing for House Bill 5001 as well as for the related Senate Bill No. 2 — which aims to expand preschool and behavioral health services for children — is scheduled for 9 a.m. Feb. 25.

Eliza Fawcett can be reached at elfawcett@courant.com.


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LIVING

CELEBRITIES

Glover has no regrets on ‘Atlanta’ end

From news services

There won’t be a long wait for the fourth season of FX’s “Atlanta,” but it will be its last.

The Emmy-winning series created by Donald Glover, which begins its third season March 24, will be back in the fall to wrap up the story of Glover’s music manager Earn, rapper Paper Boi (Brian Tyree Henry) and their circle, FX said Thursday.

There was a big gap between season two, which concluded in May 2018, and this season because of scheduling conflicts that delayed production, FX said previously. But the final two seasons have been shot.

On Thursday, Glover said he has no regrets about wrapping the series.

“To be honest, I wanted to end it after season two,” he said during a Q&A with TV critics. “Death is natural ... when the conditions are ripe for something, they happen, and when the conditions aren’t right for it, they don’t happen.”

“I feel like the story was always supposed to be what it was,” Glover said.

Lincoln Center to honor Blanchett: Lincoln Center will honor Cate Blanchett with its 47th Chaplin Award at the arts organization’s annual fundraising gala on April 25. Film at Lincoln Center announced the award for the actor on Friday. “It is our privilege to dedicate an evening of celebration to her, and add one more accolade to her many well-deserved awards,” said Lesli Klainberg, executive director of Film at Lincoln Center, in a statement.

Page pens memoir: Elliot Page is working on a memoir, in which he will write about everything from his Oscar-nominated film career to becoming a prominent transgender



Donald Glover said, “Death is natural,” when discussing the end of the series “Atlanta.” JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION 2019

person. Flatiron Books announced Thursday that “Pageboy” will be published next year.

“The memoir will delve into Page’s relationship with his body, his experiences as one of the most famous trans people in the world, and will cover mental health, assault, love, relationships, sex and the cesspool that Hollywood can be,” according to Flatiron.

Page, 34, came out as transgender in 2020.

Isaac, Kravitz to host ‘SNL’: A superhero-heavy lineup is headed to “Saturday Night Live.” Oscar Isaac and Zoe Kravitz will host episodes next month, NBC announced Thursday. Isaac, 42, who stars in the upcoming Marvel series “Moon Knight,” will headline the sketch comedy show’s March 5 episode, where he’ll be joined by pop star Charli XCX as the musical guest. Kravitz, 33, who plays Catwoman in the much-anticipated film “The Batman,” will host the March 12 show, with Spanish singer Rosalia

performing. It will be the first time hosting for both actors.

Clarkson seeking name change: Multiple outlets report that “American Idol” winner and daytime television host Kelly Clarkson filed court documents on Feb. 14 to change her name to Kelly Brianne. Brianne is her middle name, and one that she wrote “more fully reflects who I am.” The petition comes in the wake of her difficult divorce from Brandon Blackstock. She was declared legally single in September 2021, and also successfully changed her name back to Kelly Clarkson.

Feb. 19 birthdays: Singer Smokey Robinson is 82. Guitarist Tony Iommi is 74. Actor Jeff Daniels is 67. Actor Leslie David Baker is 64. Singer Seal is 59. Actor Justine Bateman is 56. Actor Benicio Del Toro is 55. Actor Bellamy Young is 52. Actor Haylie Duff is 37. Actor Victoria Justice is 29. Actor Millie Bobby Brown is 18.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Artsy wedding clothes stir up family drama

Dear Amy: My partner and I are eloping next month. I’m very excited, but my mother and sister keep complaining about my dress.

I’m an artist and my partner is a writer. We love outlandish fashion and chose to support up-and-coming designers in selecting our wedding attire.

For me, this meant eschewing the traditional white dress for a more avant-garde ensemble that makes me feel gorgeous and extremely cool.

My sister told me she was “worried that everyone else at the wedding would look better than the bride.”

My mother refused to even comment on the dress, and then changed the subject.

Since the outfit reveal, they both keep trying to convince me into the white dress of their dreams.

I’ve asked them to be supportive of my choice and to keep negative comments to themselves, but they always fire back with: “We just want you to look your best on your big day because we love you!”

Any advice on how to handle this?

— *Fashionably Hurt Feelings*

Dear Hurt Feelings: I’ve always believed that one benefit of eloping would be that the couple might be spared the drama — along with the hoopla — of a more “traditional” wedding.

Your wedding sounds more inclusive than a typical elopement.

Your family members will not be supportive of your choice. So — stop

discussing this with them. Take a page from your mother’s book and ... change the subject.

Your wedding clothes should reflect you — and if they do, you will be happy. In fact, the more unique and individual your clothes are, the more rooted in the moment you will be.

Your photos will take you right back to the day when you said, “I do,” while also feeling gorgeous and extremely cool.

Rock on!

Dear Amy: We live in a wonderful neighborhood. One day, very unexpectedly, my husband went into the hospital. I was alone with our three young children. I was able to secure a babysitter for our older two, and I reached out to a few of our neighbors for help with our infant.

One of my neighbors responded. Not only did they watch our baby, but they came over to pick up her things, and picked her up and dropped her off.

While I paid our babysitter as normal, I knew that our neighbors likely wouldn’t want any payment, yet I didn’t feel it was right to do nothing. So, I made out a thank you card and dropped it off with a \$100 gift card to a grocery store.

They texted us, saying that they didn’t want the gift card because they “simply don’t need it,” and wanted to return it to us. I responded by saying it would make us happy if they used it (they have two teenagers).

In their next text, they said that it “was too much,” and they’ll donate it to a food bank.

I found their response

very hurtful. I may be too emotional, given how hard it was on me and how grateful I am.

Am I overreacting?

— *Grateful Neighbor*

Dear Grateful: Yes, I believe you are overreacting. Your abundant gratitude may have led you to overextend your thanks.

Giving them a cash equivalent has embarrassed them, but they overreacted in response.

Your sincere thanks was enough. Your neighbors were being neighborly and kind. It feels good to step up! The opportunity to repay their kindness with your own gesture will arise, and you will step up.

A more balanced gesture might have been to treat them to a pizza night by having some of their favorite pies delivered to their house (re: teenagers) — but again, no gift was necessary.

I hope you are able to simply let this go.

Dear Amy: I went “grrrrr” when I read the letter from “Family Member,” who had people show up at her house for Christmas with their unruly dogs in tow!

I love my fur babies — for sure — but I would never impose them on anyone else, unless invited.

— *Dog Lover*

Dear Lover: I anticipated that some dog owners might defend this behavior, but I’m happy to report that the many responses all agree with you.

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MUSIC

Spoon leans into Texas rock to craft ‘great rock ’n’ roll record’

By Mark Kennedy
Associated Press

The band Spoon has taken a sonic fork in the road and, appropriately enough, the first single from its new album mentions another piece of silverware — a knife.

“The Hardest Cut” — complete with the line “we live on a knife” — roars with a dark, grunge-meets-1970s guitar energy, a signal of what’s to come from the Texas-based band on its 10-track, 10th album, “Lucifer on the Sofa.”

“We wanted to make a rock ’n’ roll record, a great rock ’n’ roll record,” says frontman Britt Daniel. “I just don’t feel like there’s enough great rock ’n’ roll records being made these days.”

“Lucifer on the Sofa,” recently released through Matador Records, is a turn toward more muscular, minimalist classic rock, more aggressive and rehearsed than the band’s predecessor “Hot Thoughts,” where synths were prominent and songs constructed on the fly.

“We always tend to want to react a bit against the record we just did. That last record was more of a pieced together record, a produced record. It was a record where a lot of times we started recording, and we didn’t know what the song really was,” says Daniel.

For “Lucifer on the Sofa,” drummer Jim Eno says Spoon tried to lean into Texas rock and early ZZ Top, using more real instruments than effects.

“The stuff that sounds like a band playing in a room has always been the kind of records that we grew up listening to. So it was trying to capture some of that,” says Eno.



‘Lucifer on the Sofa’
Spoon (Matador Records)

Daniel estimates the new album was two-thirds done when the pandemic hit in March 2020.

“I found myself with a lot of alone time, and I wrote a lot more songs. That was the thing that kind of made me feel normal during the harshest part of lockdown,” he says.

While some songs the band had been kicking around for a few years, several were informed by the pandemic, including the “The Devil & Mister Jones,” about a bad dude, and “Wild,” about the drudgery of life.

“We like to challenge ourselves and not repeat ourselves,” says Eno. “I feel like some bands may just have the exact same formula over and over again, and I feel like we try not to do that.”

The album starts with a cover of Smog’s “Held” and chugs along in a rock vein until getting a little spacey with “Astral Jacket” and “Satellite,” before taking a weird and cool detour with the title track.

“The lucifer on the sofa is me,” says Daniel. “It’s the character that I can become when I’m at my worst. And I think a lot of people have that same kind of character. Nobody is the same person at all times, and at times of distress, bad things tend to come out.”

“Whenever I recognize

that person come out, I try to get past it. My way of trying to get past it in this song is to get up off that sofa.”

Members of Spoon have returned to Austin full-time lately, and Daniel says he’s most enjoying listening to live music on a daily basis.

“It’s a town where it’s all about live performances and bands that are doing it because it’s fun and not doing it with an eye on the music industry,” he says. “It’s the life I like.”

Spoon is getting great reviews for the new clutch of songs, with Rolling Stone saying it might be the band’s best record, and Paste magazine calling it “the sound of a band in peak form who are pushing to get better, go further and resist any temptation to slack off.”

That’s a far cry from the days when Spoon was dropped by Elektra Records and had difficulty convincing anyone to put out its “Girls Can Tell” album.

Daniel was advised to change the band’s name. It was considered damaged goods.

“Maybe that would have been the smart thing to do, but we didn’t do it that way,” he recalls. “We somehow found an audience, and then labels were more welcome to putting out our records.”

The band plans to tour with the new material, kicking off live shows in April and ending in June.

Daniel and Eno are eager to play live again and happy how “Lucifer on the Sofa” ended up.

“I think Britt’s writing the best songs that he’s ever written,” says Eno. “When you’re in a band with a great songwriter, everything can fall together a lot more easily.”

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): A memory today could highlight your bad habits. They could still be getting in the way of your progress. Think about what happened last time you acted in this way. Consider asking for constructive feedback from others.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Your time now is likely to be taken up by family matters. People who are important in your life are probably your focus. Feel free to spend time with your loved ones and remind yourself of the reasons you love them. No matter what’s going on outside, your home life is likely to be a sanctuary.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Your optimism is misplaced, but it can still help you make progress toward your dreams. Exploring your creative side could offer you entertainment. You might discover that you’re better at something than you’d thought. It’s a good way of bonding with loved ones.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): You may find people more cooperative than usual today. Ignore phones and emails to make sure you really focus on the issue at hand. Finding answers is about asking the right questions — work in a team rather than carving out your own path. Apply some common sense.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Feb. 19, 1473, astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus was born in Torun, Poland.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which paved the way for

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Listen. Standing back and letting other people have their say could clear the air and make it easier to deal with any issues you may have at a later time. Biting your tongue might be hard at some points, but it could also give you the opportunity to gain greater understanding.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): When it comes to what you owe, pay attention to the finer points of the deal. It’s possible that the arrangement isn’t quite what you think or that some minor changes could have a bigger effect than you’d anticipated. You could save yourself time if you ensure that everything is set up in a way that suits you.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Listen to your dreams. They could highlight aspects of your life you haven’t thought about before. Write them down. Noting who you’ve dreamed about can be enough to focus you in the right direction. It may be that someone close to you has been treated unfairly.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): This is an ideal time to say your piece. You may not enjoy speaking out in public in normal circumstances. However, today you have the ability to make what you say really matter. Don’t hesitate to show off yourself and your ideas. It could benefit you for a long time to come.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can be at your best when alongside other people. Spending time with those who share your ideas can give you a true sense of belonging. Get to know them a bit better. It should be easy to stand out by being the one who stops to listen. They’ll appreciate you not talking over them.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your daydreams fill your head today. Take time out for reflection. It’s worth letting your mind wander where it will, as that can unearth some unexpectedly useful perspectives. They might not make immediate sense, but you can store the thoughts away to use when the moment arrives.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Working out what other people feel is easier than usual at the moment. People give away all sorts of information with their body language and their tone of voice, and this is what you can pick up on. Make an effort to ensure that what you do is considerate of their feelings.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Impulse spending could be enticing today. It might not be a problem as long as you stay within your budget, but you could still kick yourself later if you waste some money. Paying a little extra may be worth it, but it would still be best to step back and consider it rather than splurge on a whim.

the relocation and internment of people of Japanese ancestry.

In 1976, President Gerald R. Ford, calling the issuing of the internment order for people of Japanese ancestry in 1942 “a sad day in American history,” signed a proclamation formally confirming its termination.

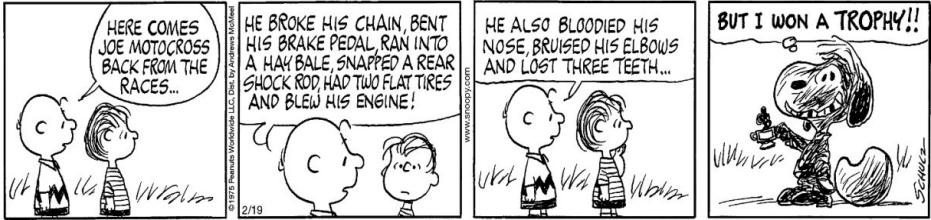
In 1997, Deng Xiaoping, the last of China’s major

Communist revolutionaries, died at age 92.

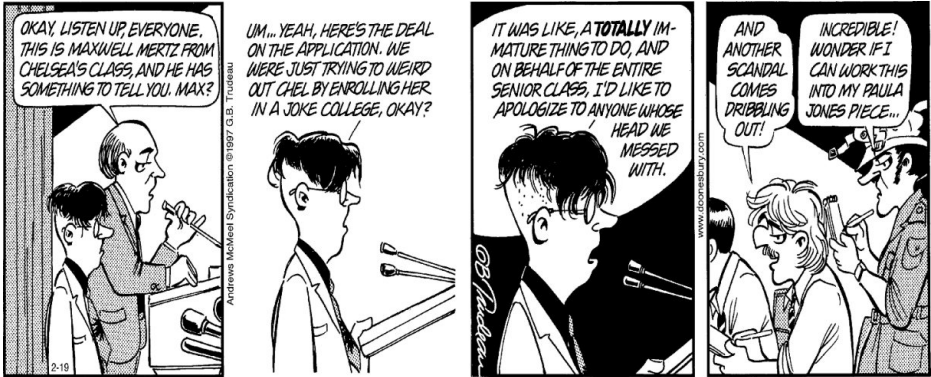
In 2008, an ailing Fidel Castro resigned the Cuban presidency after nearly a half-century in power; his brother Raul was later named to succeed him.

In 2019, President Donald Trump directed the Pentagon to develop plans for a new Space Force within the Air Force.

Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



Garfield By Jim Davis



Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



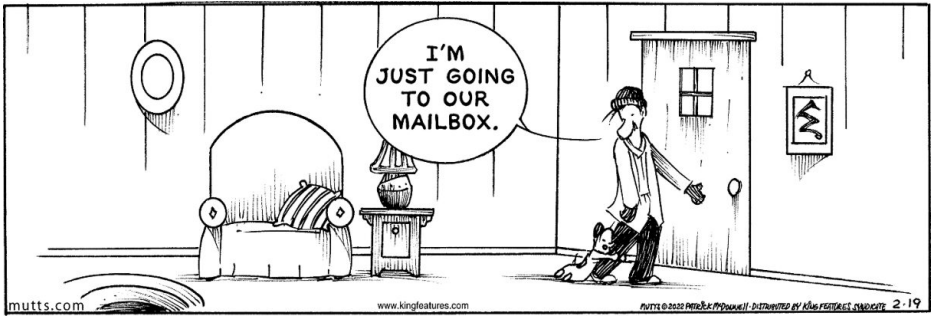
Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



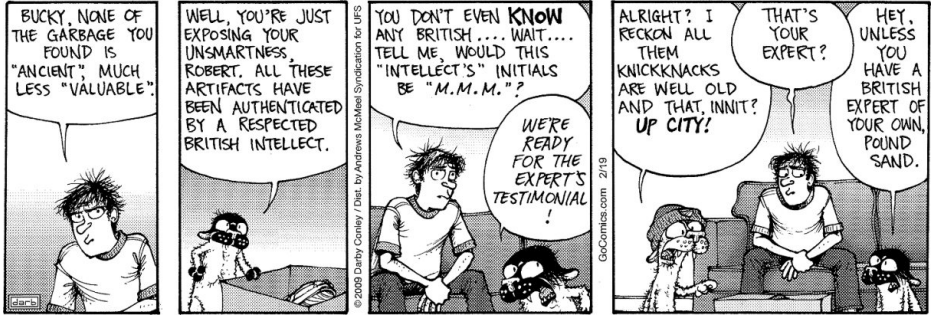
Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



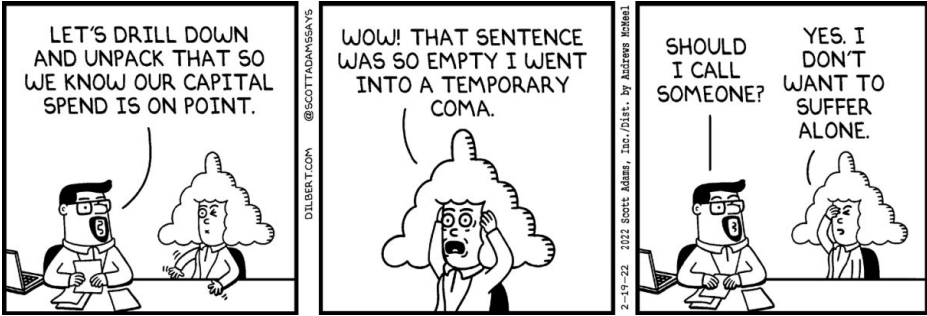
Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



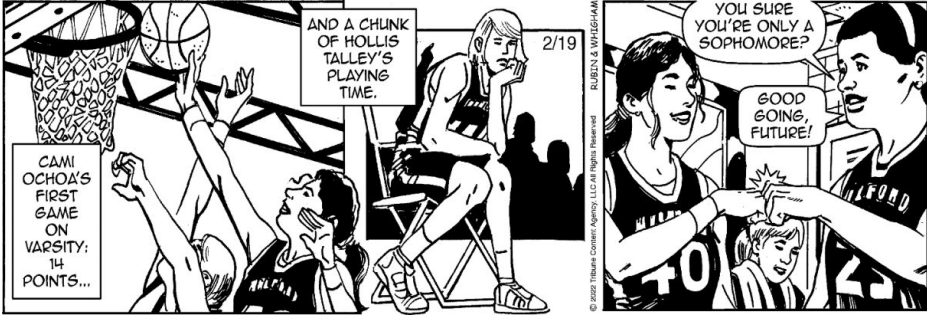
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



Dilbert By Scott Adams



Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



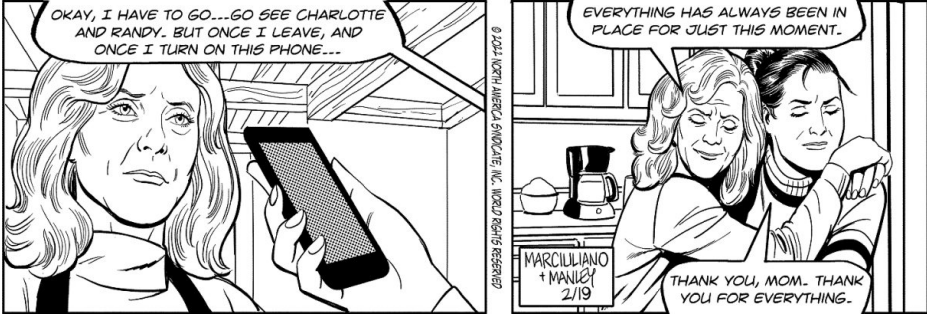
Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



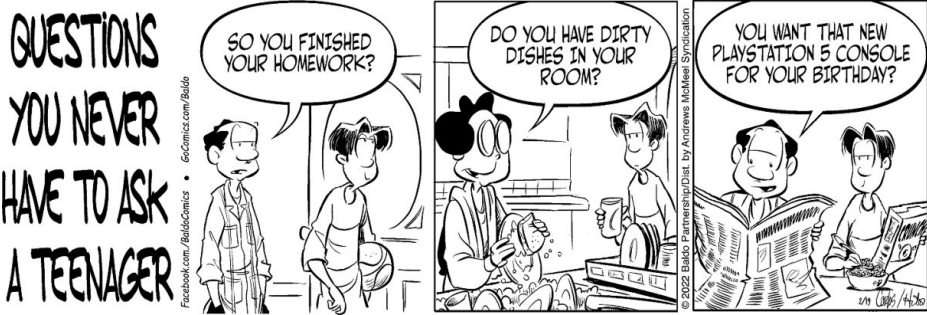
Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



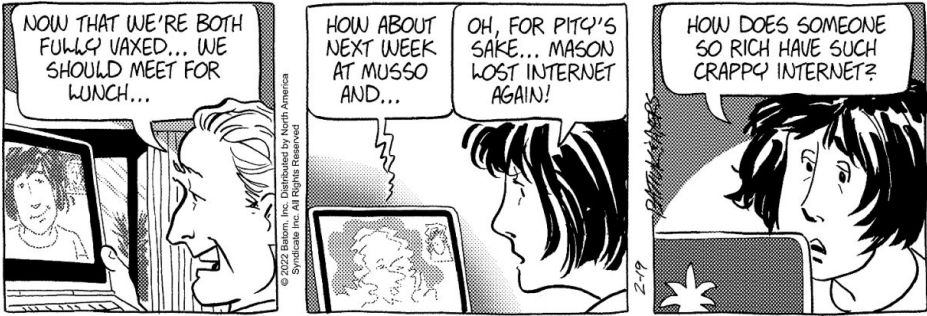
Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



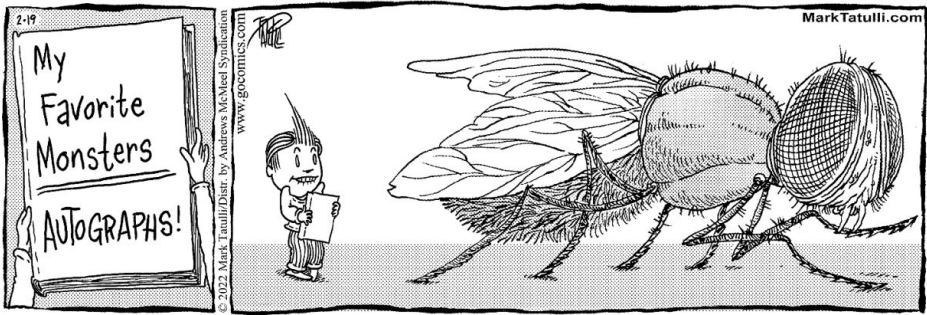
Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



Lio By Mark Tatulli



Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



Monty By Jim Meddick



Motoring
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SPORTS

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UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

Jackson ready to take back control on court

Huskies begin home stretch looking to avenge earlier loss to Xavier

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

Andre Jackson wants to lead by example. For the UConn guard, that means playing with more energy and defensive focus this time around against Xavier. The UConn men's basketball team plays the Musketeers

on Saturday at Gampel Pavilion. The Huskies have won three out of their last four games and hope to win their third straight game against a conference opponent. Xavier, meanwhile, has lost three out of four, with the lone win coming against UConn. Jackson felt it was too easy for the Musketeers in the previous game, a 74-68 Huskies loss on Feb. 11.

"I didn't do enough on the defensive end," he said. "Overall, as a team, we didn't play good enough defense on (Paul) Scruggs in the second half. He was getting to the hole very easily. He got out of control in the second half." UConn coach Dan Hurley knows this Musketeers team comes in desperate again. "The feeling of the sting of that

Up next



Xavier
at UConn
Noon Sat., FOX

loss is not lost on the group here," he said. The No. 24 Huskies (18-7 and 9-5 in the Big East) typically dominate the glass against opponents, but Xavier was the more physical team and outrebounded them, 35-31. That's not lost on Jackson.

"(Rebounding) is very crucial," he said. "We have a lot of people that can rebound the ball and every time we outrebound our opponent, we usually win the basketball game. That's something we focus on and coach Hurley preaches constantly. I think for me personally, I have to do a better job of getting on the offensive glass." With five games remaining in the season, Hurley knows every

Turn to Men, Page 4

NETS

Drummond can be main center for Brooklyn

But he must get ready to handle big minutes

By Kristian Winfield
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Expect to see a lot of Andre Drummond on the court this season — provided he's in good enough shape to play the minutes coach Steve Nash wants to give him. Drummond, the former UConn star who grew up in Middletown, Conn., and went to Hartford's Capital Prep, has been a rebounding machine in his few appearances as a Net since landing in Brooklyn as part of the James Harden trade. His presence alone has helped a Nets team that has struggled on the glass this season. As a result, Nash wants to play Drummond a significant number of minutes at the center position for the remainder of the season—which will take some getting used to for the big man, who played most of this season as Joel Embiid's backup on the 76ers. "I think the biggest thing is that we've struggled to rebound the ball and he's a natural rebounder," Nash said before his team's victory against the Knicks on Wednesday. "He also is a big

Turn to Drummond, Page 8



Winter Olympics

Eileen Gu captured gold in the halfpipe final to become the first action-sports athlete to earn three medals at the same Winter Olympics. **Page 5**



UConn's Aaliyah Edwards, left, and Olivia Nelson-Ododa celebrate during the first half of the Huskies win at Xavier in Cincinnati on Friday. **ISAAC FIELY/COURTESY OF XAVIER / SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL UCONN 89, XAVIER 35

BACK IN BUSINESS

With Ducharme and Nelson-Ododa back, No. 10 UConn demolishes Xavier

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

CINCINNATI — Going into Friday's game at Xavier, No. 10 UConn was the healthiest it's been since Jan. 26, as freshman Caroline Ducharme and senior Olivia

Nelson-Ododa finally made their returns after missing the last four and three games, respectively, with injuries. Seemingly on the upward swing away from their season-long bout with injuries, the Huskies made sure to take advantage. UConn overcame a slow start to pull together a 37-0 run spanning the second and third quarters on its way to demolishing Xavier, 89-35 — its largest margin of victory on the season — in its final regular-season road game of 2021-22.

Up next



UConn vs.
Georgetown
2 p.m., Sun.CBSSN

"I thought we played really, really well the last 30 minutes and we got a great effort from everybody on the bench, they contributed," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. The well-rounded performance featured each of the Huskies' 10 available players scoring at least five points. Off the bench, Ducha-

rme finished the night with 11 points (4-7 shooting, 2-5 from 3), four rebounds and two assists in 14 minutes, while Nelson-Ododa had eight points (2-3 from the field, 4-4 from the line), four rebounds and four assist in 16. Senior Christyn Williams (13 points, five assists, four steals), freshman Azzi Fudd (11 points), sophomore Aaliyah Edwards (10 points, seven rebounds) and sophomore Piath Gabriel (11 points) all also hit double figures once UConn

Turn to Women, Page 4

BOYS BASKETBALL SIMSBURY 60, BLOOMFIELD 50

Simsbury breaks out of slump

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

BLOOMFIELD — The Simsbury High boys basketball team came into the Bloomfield gym Friday having lost four of their last five games. Bloomfield had won four straight. But after losing to Platt by two points Tuesday, the Trojans (13-6) managed to turn it around Friday, breaking open a close game in the fourth quarter and beating Bloomfield 60-50 in a CCC interdivisional game. Senior Aidan Riordan had eight

of his 19 points in the fourth quarter and junior Chris Kokines hit five of his 10 free throws in the fourth and had 20 points for Simsbury. "We've played a stretch of some really tough teams," Simsbury coach Greg Stillman said. "Sometimes you get in those losing streaks and you forget how to find a way to win and that's why I'm proud of my guys today — it wasn't always pretty, we had some adversity, but at the end we found a way to win." Cayden Smith led Bloomfield (16-3) with 18 points. "They're a well-disciplined

team," Bloomfield coach Kevin Moses said. "They backdoored us a lot. My bench is real short. Howard Simpson, one of my key players, is still injured. Hopefully I'll have him back for the tournament. "We didn't rebound, we didn't box out, we didn't get certain calls but I'm not blaming the referees — we have to put the ball in the basket. We missed free throws too." Still, the Warhawks were in the game until the start of the fourth quarter. Jansyn Booth hit a shot to open the quarter to tie the score at 38 but a jumper by Riordan started

Turn to Simsbury, Page 8



Simsbury's Aidan Riordan drives to the basket as Bloomfield's Lake McLean, right, defends on Friday at Bloomfield High School. **JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

Safety Tip of the Day

Winter storms can lead to power outages. Make sure you have working flashlights and a battery-powered radio in case a problem develops.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

UConn MBB: Xavier (Gampel), Saturday, noon; Villanova (XL), Tuesday, 8 p.m.; at Georgetown, Feb. 27, noon
UConn WBB: Georgetown (XL), Sunday, 2 p.m.; Marquette (XL), Wednesday, 7 p.m.; St. John's (XL), Friday, 7 p.m.
Celtics: at Nets, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; at Pistons, Feb. 26, noon; at Pacers, Feb. 27, 5 p.m.
Knicks: Heat, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; 76ers, Feb. 27, 1 p.m.; at 76ers, March 2, 7:30 p.m.
Nets: Celtics, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; at Bucks, Feb. 26,

TV/RADIO

AUTO RACING
11 a.m.: NASCAR Cup Series Daytona 500, Final Practice. (Live) FS1
1:30 p.m.: ARCA Racing Series Daytona. (Live) FS1
BASKETBALL
12 p.m.: Xavier at Connecticut. (Live) FOX
12 p.m.: Illinois at Michigan State. (Live) ESPN
12 p.m.: TCU at Baylor. (Live) ESPN2
12 p.m.: Boston College at Syracuse. (Live) ESPN
12:30 p.m.: Texas Tech at Texas. (Live) ABC
1 p.m.: Alabama at Kentucky. (Live) CBS
1:30 p.m.: Boston University at Colgate. (Live) CBSSN
2 p.m.: Auburn at Florida. (Live) ESPN
2 p.m.: Morgan State at Howard. (Live) ESPN2
2:30 p.m.: Iowa at Ohio State. (Live) FOX
3:30 p.m.: Saint Louis at Davidson. (Live) CBSSN
4 p.m.: Tennessee at Arkansas. (Live) ESPN
4 p.m.: North Carolina at Virginia Tech. (Live) ESPN2
5 p.m.: Georgetown at Villanova. (Live) FOX
6 p.m.: Utah State at Boise State. (Live) CBSSN
6 p.m.: Florida State at Duke. (Live) ESPN
8 p.m.: Colorado State at UNLV. (Live) CBSSN
8 p.m.: Kansas at West Virginia. (Live) ESPN
8 p.m.: Oregon State at Arizona State. (Live) ESPN2
8 p.m.: DePaul at Seton Hall. (Live) FS1
8 p.m.: 2022 NBA All-Star Saturday Night (Live) TNT
10 p.m.: San Diego State at Fresno State. (Live) CBSSN
10 p.m.: Oregon at Arizona. (Live) ESPN

8:30 p.m.; Raptors, Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m.
UConn hockey: at UMass, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; at Northeastern, Friday, 7 p.m.; Northeastern, Feb. 26, 3 p.m.
Bruins: at Senators, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Avalanche, Monday, 7 p.m.; at Kraken, Thursday, 10 p.m.
Rangers: at Senators, Sunday, 5 p.m.; Capitals, Thursday, 7 p.m.; Canucks, Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m.
Wolf Pack: Providence, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Bridgeport, Sunday, 3 p.m.; at Springfield, Friday, 7 p.m.

10 p.m.: Colorado at Stanford. (Live) ESPN
10 p.m.: Washington at UCLA. (Live) FS1
FOOTBALL
4 p.m.: HBCU Legacy Bowl. (Live) NFL
GOLF
1 p.m.: The Genesis Invitational, Third Round. (Live) GOLF
3 p.m.: The Genesis Invitational, Third Round. (Live) CBS
3 p.m.: Chubb Classic, Second Round. (Live) GOLF
HOCKEY
7 p.m.: Boston Bruins at Ottawa Senators. (Live) SPRTNET, NESN
7:30 p.m.: College: UConn at UMass. (Live), NESNPlus. Radio: 97.9.NHL
OLYMPICS
6 a.m.: Figure Skating. (Live) USA
7 a.m.: Beijing 2022 Morning. (Live) SPRTNET
8 a.m.: Men's Hockey, Bronze Medal Game: Teams TBA. (Live) CNBC
1:30 p.m.: Men's Curling, Gold Medal Game: Teams TBA. (Same-day Tape) USA
8 p.m.: Bobsled, Figure Skating. (Live) NBC
8:05 p.m.: Women's Curling, Gold Medal Game: Teams TBA. (Live) CNBC
11:10 p.m.: Men's Hockey, Gold Medal Game: Teams TBA. (Live) USA
1:30 a.m.: Cross-Country Skiing. (Live) USA
RUGBY
12 a.m.: NRL Rugby Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks vs Penrith Panthers. (Live) FSP
SOCCER
7:55 a.m.: Italian Serie B Soccer AC Monza 1912 vs AC Pisa 1909. (Live) FSP

METS

Showalter still preparing for camp

Even if he doesn't have major league players on hand

By Deesha Thosar
New York Daily News

PORT ST. LUCIE — Buck Showalter is trying to use his time wisely.
With the owners' lockout about to hit Day 80, Showalter's days are less hectic and much slower. He gets ample time to sleep. He has time to meet and get to know his coaching staff in person, rather than Zoom calls. He has time to study his new players and prepare for their arrivals at spring camp. He even has time to notice large paw prints on one of the backfields, paw prints that he believes belong to a panther.

YANKEES

LeMahieu regrets coaches took fall for poor hitting

By Kristie Ackert
New York Daily News

TAMPA, Fla. — DJ LeMahieu is not looking back. He's not making excuses for a down 2021; the versatile infielder won't blame the sports hernia that forced him to have surgery after the season. It's an extra layer of frustration to the players being locked out of spring training that LeMahieu's worked to put that subpar season behind him.
“I don't really want to talk about last year,” LeMahieu said after working out with other major league players at a local university. “I just want to get on with this year.”
LeMahieu, who said he's 100% healthy and has been hitting all offseason since he was cleared by his doctors, certainly isn't going to let

And though minor leaguers have arrived at the Mets facility, beginning to stretch and warm up and greet one another after the long offseason, it is quiet at the Clover Park grounds without major leaguers. The absence of 40-man roster players is stark.
“It's going to be a moving target,” Showalter said Friday of the lockout eventually ending. “We're going to get a phone call, hopefully, and the players are going to be here and we gotta be ready to go the day they walk through the door. The teams that are ready to go when they walk through the door will be ahead of the game. It's not if, it's when. And you need to be ready.”
The new Mets manager hopes the latest round of negotiations between

the blame for his or the Yankee' offense's struggles in 2021 on the two guys who paid the price for it. Hitting coach Marcus Thames and his assistant P.J. Pilittere were fired after the season because the Bombers offense never took off in 2021.
“We didn't play up to our capabilities, it's that simple,” LeMahieu said. “It wasn't their fault by any means. It's not on them. They were the guys that helped us get to where we were the previous few years...”
“I am just glad they landed on their feet”
Thames, who was hired as the Marlins' new hitting coach, and Pilittere, who was hired by the Rockies, eventually took the fall in October for an overly right-handed lineup full of slug-gers who struggled and never came together as



Showalter

MLB and the players union will lead to good news soon. Though talks between the two sides have moved slowly since commissioner Rob Manfred authorized a lockout on Dec. 2, meetings are expected to pick up next week. The sport has already blown past its usual spring training report date, and MLB wants four weeks of camp before the regular season can start. That means the two sides must reach an agreement by or around Feb. 28 for a March 31 Opening Day to avoid being delayed.
When asked if Showalter believes one month —

instead of the customary six weeks — of spring training is enough to get the players ready for the regular season, he said: “Yes. The answer can't be no.” The 65-year-old skipper is prepared with a set of dates that players could enter camp once the lockout is over. Showalter and other Mets officials are busy completing their physicals and other routine annual exams to ensure they're done and out of the way before major leaguers go through the same process. The word “thorough” is insufficient to describe Showalter's readiness for player arrivals.
Still, as much as he and other team officials can prepare, the usual sights and sounds of spring training are missing from Port St. Lucie.



The Yankees' DJ LeMahieu watches his ball as he hits a single against the Orioles on Sept. 14 in Baltimore. JULIO CORTEZ/AP

expected. The Yankees were built on power hitters and to overwhelm their opponents with offense, but finished seventh in the American League in OPS (.729), 10th in runs scored (711) and were fourth in strikeouts (1482). That had fans calling for heads and the front office did not renew the contracts of Thames and Pilittere.
To LeMahieu's point, however, Thames and Pilittere were the same hitting coaches that had the Yankees leading the league in OPS in 2020 and runs scored in 2019.
“I had a great relationship with Marcus and P.J.,” LeMahieu said. “I was disap-

pointed to see them go.”
They were replaced by Dillon Lawson, who had worked as the Yankees minor league hitting coordinator, and Casey Dykes as the assistant hitting coach. Because they were around the complex during workouts in previous years, LeMahieu said he knows who the new hitting guys are, but has no real relationship with them yet.
“He called me and said ‘Hey, I am your new hitting coach,’” LeMahieu said of Lawson, “and then he said he couldn't call me after that day” because of the then-impending lockout. “I know him and the guys a little bit.”

LOCAL SCOREBOARD

THURSDAY'S LATE HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL
NCCC
SMSA 55, SUFFIELD 46
SUFFIELD (12-8): Tyler Lewis 2-0-4, Nick Van Cott 2-0-4, Mike Coggins 5-4-14, Nick Sattan 1-0-2, Quinn Lynam 2-0-4, Jack Pixton 4-1-9, Will Crozier 4-1-9. Totals 20-6-46.
SMSA (16-2): King Shae 5-0-10, Nizayah Bogar 4-0-8, Abijah Miller 3-2-8, Kemani Thompson 5-4-14, Daniel Hernandez 5-3-13, Zakheer Kerr 1-0-2. Totals 23-9-55.
SU: 8; 12; 10; 16; —; 46
SM: 13; 11; 19; 12; —; 55
WINDSOR LOCKS 82, EAST WINDSOR 39
EAST WINDSOR (3-15): Josh Maddox 3-4-13, Eric Wyse 3-0-7, Nicky Parakilas 2-0-2, Ryan Lee 2-1-5, Alex Giannuzzi 0-0-4, Juelz Torres 3-2-8. Totals 13-9-39.
WINDSOR LOCKS (3-15): Jaydon Buckle 15-0-33, Jaheime Thomas 1-0-2, Chris Vega 2-0-4, Issihaj Stephenson 1-0-3, Allen Hinckley 2-0-4, Danni Vargas 1-0-2, Evan Courtney 0-2-1, Austin Smith 5-0-14, Malike Alassani 1-0-2, Elijah Huggins 1-0-2, Jamari Murrell 4-1-9, Justin Morle 1-1-3. Totals 35-4-82.
EW: 12; 5; 18; 4; —; 39
WL: 19; 19; 24; 21; —; 81
STAFFORD 59, BOLTON 53
STAFFORD (13-6): Tom Balanceau 7-2-20, Logan Briggs 0-2-2, Isaac Minaya 10-4-24, Mark McLaughlin 4-1-11, Collin Gudemann 1-0-2. Totals 22-9-59.
BOLTON (5-14): Mason Fox 2-0-4, Trevor Buchanan 7-6-23, Colby Marsh 3-0-7, Cal Bulley 4-5-13, Ryan Orzolek 3-0-6. Totals 19-11-53.
S: 14; 7; 19; 19; —; 59
B: 8; 9; 15; 21; —; 53
CRAL
INNOVATION 54, CIVIC LEADERSHIP 40
CIVIC LEADERSHIP (3-16): Kyon McCreary 4-1-10, Noah Hicks 4-1-10, Jayden Gist 2-0-4, Donovan Brown 1-0-2, Chris Norton 4-2-10. Totals 15-6-40.
INNOVATION (6-14): Yonathan Ramos 1-1-3, Tyvonn Thompson 2-4-9, Amir Bolden 1-0-2, Nae'Shaun Roberson 1-1-3, Mohammed Kulail 1-0-3, Angel Maldonado 2-0-4, Amir Cruz 11-2-24, Jayden Newell-Kemp 1-2-4. Totals 25-8-62.
M: 9; 6; 7; 5; —; 27
W: 12; 15; 16; 19; —; 62
SCC
LYMAN HALL 79, FORAN 47
FORAN (6-14): Brayden Young 2-0-5, Jack D'Avignon 2-0-5, Charlie Diamanti 11-2-24, Matteo Tonelli 1-0-3, Jon Lahav 2-0-5, Aiden Davis 1-0-2, AJ Edmond 1-1-3. Totals 20-3-47.
LYMAN HALL (5-13): Justin Hackett 9-8-28, Brady Campbell 7-6-20, Tyler Casey 3-2-9, Nazier Medina 4-2-13, Caiden McManus 1-0-3, Jovanni Cole 1-0-2, Cheick Sy 1-0-2, James Lynch 1-0-2. Totals 27-18-79.
F: 6; 14; 14; 13; —; 47
H: 25; 16; 17; 21; —; 79
Others
PLAINVILLE 50, OXFORD 49

OXFORD (8-9): Johnny Broas 3-0-7, Gavin Glass 1-1-3, Julian Papst 2-2-6, Will Broas 4-2-11, David Zareski 6-9-22. Totals 16-14-49.
PLAINVILLE (5-13): George James 2-1-5, Artem Mojica 5-0-12, Brennan Stauble 4-2-12, MJ Bakaysa 2-0-6, Cam Lamothe 3-0-6, Joe Vasquez 4-1-9. Totals 20-3-50.
O: 6; 16; 14; 13; —; 49
P: 9; 18; 13; 10; —; 50
ST. PAUL 42, VALLEY REGIONAL 41
ST. PAUL (12-5): Ben Bochicchio 5-1-14, Mekhi Petteway 8-2-18, Logan Rembish 1-0-2, Jamie Leggett 5-0-10, Matt Palmieri 1-0-2, Erik Suziko 1-0-2. Totals 18-3-42.
VALLEY REGIONAL (9-10): Di'Angelo Jean-Pierre 2-1-5, Andrew Yermeson 3-0-9, Simon Partyka 4-0-10, Sam Hutchinson 2-0-4, James Marsden 3-3-11, Brayden Shea 1-0-2. Totals 13-4-41.
SP: 10; 17; 7; 8; —; 42
VR: 13; 9; 6; 13; —; 41

GIRLS BASKETBALL
NCCC
EAST GRANBY 59, SMSA 13
SMSA (2-18): Edita Hamzabegovic 1-0-2, Nairoby Hiraldo 3-1-7, Alyssa Livingston 1-0-2, Charis Krevalin 1-0-2. Totals 6-1-13.
EAST GRANBY (6-14): Melina Betts 2-0-4, Megan Benner 2-0-4, Morgan Egan 1-1-3, Melanie Chen 2-0-4, Sarah Springer 4-1-9, Ava Walsh 1-0-2, Ava Guyer 1-0-2, Sarah Phillips 1-0-2, Chloe Rapose 2-0-4, Julia Walsh 4-0-11, Taylor Hayes 0-2-2, Brooke DeJesus 4-0-8, Aishani Nagamalla 2-0-4. Totals 26-4-59.
S: 6; 1; 2; 4; —; 13
EG: 14; 19; 12; 14; —; 59
Shoreline
OLD LYME 52, PORTLAND 37
OLD LYME (13-7): Ava Roth 4-0-8, Kate Walsh 3-0-6, Melanie Warren 3-0-6, Ali Kyle 1-0-2, Alexis Fenton 3-1-9, Megan Loflin 6-9-21. Totals 20-10-52.
PORTLAND (6-12): Hannah Brunk 4-8-16, Kendra Schoeps 2-0-4, Sam Lasky 7-2-16, Mia Lapinski 0-1-1, Izzy McClelland 0-0-0. Totals 13-11-37.
OL: 18; 17; 9; 8; —; 52
P: 12; 10; 7; 8; —; 37
CRAL
CLASSICAL 56, ACHIEVEMENT FIRST 41
CLASSICAL (10-10): Jasmine Charley 5-1-11, Kyeera Hall 4-0-11, Saraiya Solomon 0-2-2, LeAzjiah 1-0-2, Sequoia Turcotte-Briggs 9-0-19, Reilly Fournier 3-2-8. Totals 22-6-56.
ACHIEVEMENT FIRST (2-17): Desire Cunningham 0-0-0, Arya Grace-Pearson 7-4-18, De'Asiah Jones 6-6-21, Kehara Robinson 0-0-0, Haley Rodriguez 1-0-2. Totals 14-10-41.
C: 17; 19; 18; 2; —; 56
AF: 8; 13; 4; 16; —; 41
NVL
ST. PAUL 68, WCA 24
WCA (9-11): Janelle Lawrence 1-0-3, Malinna Figueroa 0-1-1, Kiyarah Watson 2-2-6, Jannelle Ellis 2-1-5, Chandler Bryant 1-0-2, Trinitie Sanchez 1-0-2. Totals 7-9-24.
ST. PAUL (15-4): Haileigh Orzel 1-2-5, Sam Naples 1-0-2, Audrey Tice 5-2-13, Izzy Leggett 1-0-2, Olivia Dahm 1-0-2, Abbey Stanford 2-0-4, Nadia Reimer 8-0-20, Emily Ronalder 2-0-4, Sarah Lindquist 2-0-4, Alexis Tierpack 1-2-4, Rebecca Kelly 3-0-6, Ava Stevenson 1-0-2. Totals 28-6-68.
W: 7; 1; 7; 9; —; 24
SP: 16; 19; 18; 15; —; 68
Conference Tournaments
CCC—First Round
CONARD 58, MIDDLETOWN 42
CONARD (13-8): Callie Cosgrove 9-0-22, Emily Knowles 6-4-17, Tatiana Harrison 1-3-5, Sophia Lynch 2-1-5, Courtney McPhee 3-3-9. Totals 20-11-58.
MIDDLETOWN (18-3): Shalyn Smith 4-0-8, Jada Bryant 1-0-2, Alexa DeSena

2-0-4, Tyah Pettaway 7-1-15, Tajahnne Brock 1-1-3, Shadae Bushay 4-2-10. Totals 19-4-42.
C: 17; 10; 17; 14; —; 58
M: 13; 8; 12; 9; —; 42
NEWINGTON 63, BRISTOL EASTERN 39
BRISTOL EASTERN (8-11): Taigan Parent 0-0-0, Vanessa Drury 0-0-0, Ciara Collins 9-8-28, Janessa Gonzalez 4-1-9, Emma Stevens 1-0-2. Totals 14-9-39.
NEWINGTON (20-1): Lilly Ferguson 6-3-15, Karissa Zocco 2-0-6, Adriana Romano 1-0-2, Marlie Zocco 2-0-5, Arianna Barnes 1-0-2, Selah Prignano 1-0-2, Bela Cucuta 8-1-22, Kendall Miller 3-2-9. Totals 24-6-63.
BE: 14; 6; 11; 8; —; 39
N: 21; 19; 11; 12; —; 63
E.O. SMITH 41, RHAM 22
RHAM (14-7): Maddy Evans 3-0-9, Sarah Chappan 1-0-3, Allish Kleinhans 0-0-0, Kathy Chappan 2-3-7, Addison Brown 1-1-3. Totals 7-4-22.
E.O. SMITH (16-5): Jill Dingler 1-1-3, Olivia Verboven 0-4-4, Paige Raynor 1-0-3, Madeline Greene 1-1-3, Kate McAvoy 1-0-3, Claire Greene 2-6-11, Lilli Clark 1-3-5, Maddie Hughes 3-0-7, Bella Mallory 1-0-2. Totals 11-15-41.
R: 14; 3; 4; 1; —; 22
EOS: 10; 5; 15; 11; —; 41
ENFIELD 43, NEW BRITAIN 33
NEW BRITAIN (11-9): Kiatyanna Denmark 1-0-2, Adrianna Fienza 3-1-8, Jamily Carter 1-0-2, Kandra Silva 5-0-15, Layla Mejia 2-0-6. Totals 12-1-33.
ENFIELD (20-1): Alyssa Rossignol 8-10-26, Amaya Rosado 3-3-9, Alyssa Hosig 2-0-6, Megan Marcotte 1-0-2. Totals 14-13-43.
NB: 11; 6; 10; 6; —; 33
E: 10; 8; 15; —; 43
SIMSBURY 64, BERLIN 28
BERLIN (13-8): Jenna Wenzel 1-1-3, Janessa Yaconiello 3-0-8, Ava Desmorrals 1-0-2, Clare McGeever 1-2-5, Emma Ellison 1-0-2, Alivia Halkias 2-4-8. Totals 8-7-28.
SIMSBURY (19-2): Lauren Sabia 8-3-25, Olivia Jarvis 6-1-13, Amanda Gallagher 4-0-12, Faye Kapilinski 4-1-9, Amelia Rogers 1-0-2, Moira Hughes 1-0-3. Totals 24-6-64.
B: 6; 8; 7; 7; —; 28
S: 15; 12; 27; 10; —; 64
SCC—First Round
MERCY 61, BRANFORD 31
BRANFORD (8-12): Shelby Burnham 4-6-14, Lyra Clifford 1-0-2, Ally Colburn 3-2-8, Lauren Kendrick 2-0-5, Reanna Sachs 0-1-1, Megan Lawler 1-0-2. Totals 11-9-32.
MERCY (17-4): Avery Kohs 2-0-4, Sophie Hedge 4-1-10, Kate Donlan 2-0-4, Ava Giansiracusa 4-4-14, Melina Ford 2-0-4, Winnie Ciccarello 3-0-8, Caelyn McMahon-Egan 4-2-13, Bella Gonzalez 1-0-2, Mercedes Araya 1-0-2. Totals 23-6-61.
B: 10; 6; 7; 9; —; 31
M: 17; 26; 12; 6; —; 61
ECC—Quarterfinals
Division I
BACON ACADEMY 54, NFA 25
NFA (3-19): Nevaeh Yorke 1-1-3, Jordan Fabry 1-0-2, Brooke Bolles 3-1-7, Naiya Stone 0-2-2, Aislinn Richmond 2-0-4, Caitlin Daley 2-0-5, Emily Orcutt 1-0-4. Totals 10-4-25.
BACON ACADEMY (19-2): Emily Ferrigno 0-1-1, Valerie Luizzi 6-4-17, Katelyn Novak 2-0-4, Marissa Nudd 7-5-20, Cara Shea 1-2-5, Emma Mancuso 2-1-5, Veronica Smith 0-2-2. Totals 18-15-54.
N: 9; 5; 7; 4; —; 25
BA: 13; 14; 16; 11; —; 54

BOYS SWIMMING
Others
LYMAN HALL/COGINCHAUG 91, H-K/MORGAN/VALLEY 69
FRIDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS
BOYS BASKETBALL
Others
GREENWICH 68, UNIVERSITY 28
Conference Tournaments

CCC-South
LEWIS MILLS 55, BRISTOL EASTERN 39
LEWIS MILLS (11-8): Jon Schibi 1-0-2, Eli Pelletier 3-0-8, Brice Waldron 12-1-28, Logan Cowger 5-3-13, Jack Stanislaw 2-0-4. Totals 23-4-55.
BRISTOL EASTERN (4-15): Jeremiah Tatum 1-2-4, Lukas Sward 3-0-7, Dante DePass 2-0-5, Brayden Dauphinais 7-4-19, Nate Fries 1-0-2, Isiah Lawrence-Bynum 1-0-2. Totals 15-6-39.
LM: 23; 16; 9; 7; —; 55
BE: 6; 13; 14; 6; —; 39
BRISTOL CENTRAL 68, MALONEY 30
CCC-Inter
EAST HARTFORD 84, HARTFORD PUBLIC 52
HARTFORD PUBLIC (4-12): Elijah Perry 3-9-16, Jaelon Owens 2-4-9, Eric Guy 1-0-2, Tyrela Malone 8-2-20, Rashad Collins 2-1-5. Totals 16-16-52.
EAST HARTFORD (10-9): Chris Lomax 4-0-9, Favour Okeke 11-3-26, Zander Robinson 7-2-16, Elijah Serrano 2-3-7, Dom Laduca 7-0-16, Azeem Indawala 1-0-3, Mehki Shepard 1-0-2, Amari Daniels 1-0-1. Totals 31-8-84.
HP: 12; 17; 13; 10; —; 52
EH: 14; 19; 22; 9; —; 84
CONARD 69, RHAM 59
SIMSBURY 60, BLOOMFIELD 50
HALL 69, WETHERFIELD 51
NEWINGTON 51, ENFIELD 45
MIDDLETOWN 57, SOUTHTON 39
BERLIN 71, E.O. SMITH 61
PLATT 79, ROCKY HILL 46
NCCC
BOLTON 64, EAST WINDSOR 56
EAST WINDSOR (4-15): Josh Maddox 6-2-16, Eric Wyse 1-0-3, Nicky Parakilas 4-1-11, Ryan Lee 3-1-10, Juelz Torrez 3-1-8, Justin Rodriguez 3-0-8. Totals 20-5-56.
BOLTON (5-15): Ryan Orzolek 3-1-6, Mason Fox 0-2-2, Trevor Buchanan 8-10-28, Cal Bulley 7-4-20, Michael McBride 11-2-4-8. Totals 20-20-64.
EW: 8; 9; 16; 23; —; 56
B: 16; 18; 12; 18; —; 64
GRANBY 66, COVENTRY 50
COVENTRY (10-9): Wyatt Wendry 5-1-11, Owen Dieterle 2-0-6, Aiden Jeamel 3-2-9, Aidan Hecht 1-0-3, AJ Rooks 1-0-3, Vinny LoRicco 2-0-5, Joey Pezzino 1-0-2, Mate Cordner 1-0-2, Jacob Watson 1-4-6. Totals 18-7-50.
GRANBY (16-4): Josh Brown 6-1-13, Justin Phillips 8-4-22, Ralph Rossi 2-1-5, Declan Lynch 5-0-15, Juan Subiza 1-0-3, Liam Heinze 1-1-3, Andrew Guiliano 1-2-4, Russell Brown 0-1-1. Totals 24-10-66.
C: 12; 13; 13; 12; —; 50
G: 10; 21; 23; 10; —; 66
Shoreline
MORGAN 38, CROMWELL 35
OLD SAYBROOK 51, COGINCHAUG 49
HALE-RAY 75, WESTBROOK 52
CITY
NORWICH TECH 67, CHENEY TECH 58
CRAL
AEROSPACE 74, MLC 53
SCC
XAVIER 54, NORTH HAVEN 46
BRANFORD 62, CESHIRE 47
Others
TERRYVILLE 63, ROCKVILLE 54
TERRYVILLE (17-11): Dominik Dae 6-7-20, Ryan O'Donnell 3-0-9, Jeremy Legassey 1-1-3, Charlie Rogers 5-2-14, Mare Muldony 1-0-2, Jake Rinkavase 7-0-15. Totals 23-10-62.
ROCKVILLE (9-11): Weston LaBrecque 10-5-28, Jayden Tate 6-2-16, Cam Washington 0-2-2, John Ryan 2-0-5, Eric Montez Jr. 1-0-3. Totals 19-9-54.
R: 16; 14; 12; 18; —; 63
R: 12; 12; 12; 18; —; 54
EAST GRANBY 44, UNIVERSITY 33
CANTON 57, EAST HAMPTON 55

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Others
GREENWICH 68, UNIVERSITY 28
Conference Tournaments

NCCC—First Round
WINDSOR LOCKS 52, STAFFORD 47
STAFFORD (12-9): Jordan Huntley 1-0-2, Raina Caro 1-0-3, Camden Smith 3-1-8, Andrea Moulton 2-0-6, Jaelyn Moulton 7-1-21, Drea Oswell 2-3-7. Totals 16-5-47.
WINDSOR LOCKS (13-8): Alana Picard 3-3-9, Maeve McGinnis 2-0-6, Angelina Jones 2-2-7, Tristin Oberg 12-2-26, Gabby Sales 1-0-2, Jasmine Hurdle 1-0-2. Totals 21-7-52.
S: 15; 11; 12; 9; —; 47
WL: 18; 13; 13; 8; —; 52
Note: Oberg had a double-double with 25rebounds, 3blocks, 3steals. She hauled in her 1000th career rebound on her 14th board of the game.
CRAL—First Round
AEROSPACE 63, CLASSICAL 37
CLASSICAL (10-11): Mhila Huayta-Abreu 0-1-1, Jasmine Charley 4-0-9, Sequoia Turcotte-Briggs 9-0-19, Summer Tulier 2-0-4, Reilly Fournier 2-0-4. Totals 17-1-37.
AEROSPACE (13-8): Julia McLean 8-2-18, Faith Mitchell 5-3-14, Ashanti McLean 8-5-23, Justice Kitchens 1-0-2, Sammy Johnson 2-0-4, Tara Martindale 1-0-2. Totals 25-10-63.
C: 7; 6; 8; 16; —; 37
A: 18; 17; 19; —; 63
CAPITAL PREP 52, CIVIC LEADERSHIP 45
CAPITAL PREP (8-10): Sienna Cook 8-7-23, Saneaia Walford 10-5-26, Ashlyn Gordon 0-0-0, Emerald Michell 0-0-0, Trinity Coats 0-0-0. Totals 18-12-52.
CIVIC LEADERSHIP (12-9): Gabby Tinsley 4-4-13, Faith Ramos 3-1-7, Shaniqua Thomas 6-0-13, Tatyanna Noguerra 0-0-0, Ariell Cuyler 4-1-9. Totals 17-6-45.

GIRLS HOCKEY
Others
EAST CATHOLIC CO-OP 1, MATIGNON (MASS.) 1 (OT)
GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Others
STONINGTON 127.5, OLD LYME 106.45
SATURDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE
BOYS BASKETBALL
CCC-Inter: Avon at Bulkeley, 11:30a.m.; South Windsor at Plainville, 6:45p.m.
NCCC: Stafford at Somers, 2p.m.
SCC: Lyman Hall at Shelton, 7p.m.
NVL: St. Paul at WCA, noon
Others: Notre Dame-West Haven at Northwest Catholic, 3p.m.; Wamogo at Classical, 4:30p.m.; Middletown at West Haven, 5:15p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Conference Tournaments
CCC—Quarterfinals (Enfield HS): Windsor vs. Enfield, 11a.m.; Simsbury vs. East Hartford, 1p.m.; Conard vs. Southington, 5p.m.; E.O. Smith vs. Newington, 7p.m.
Shoreline—Quarterfinal: Westbrook at East Hampton, noon; Morgan at Cromwell, 3p.m.; Old Lyme at Valley Regional, 4p.m.; Coginchaug at North Branford, 7p.m.
SCC—Quarterfinals: Sheehan at SHA, noon; Guilford at Mercy, noon; Hill-house at Hand, noon
ECC—Quarterfinals
Division I (Fitch HS): Waterford vs. Bacon Academy, 3:30p.m.
Division 2 (Plainfield HS): Windham vs. Stonington, 11a.m.
BOYS HOCKEY
CCC-North: South Windsor at East Catholic, 7p.m.
CCC-South: Newington co-op at North-eastern, 6p.m.
CCC-Inter: Conard at Hall, 1:30p.m.;

Wethersfield at Glastonbury, 7:30p.m.
SCC/SWC: North Haven at East Haven co-op, 4:30p.m.; Lyman Hall at Sheehan, 7:30p.m.
Others: SGWL at BBD, 1:10p.m.; Eastern CT at Cheshire, 4p.m.; Woodstock Academy at E.O. Smith/Tolland, 4p.m.; New Milford at Rocky Hill co-op, 4:50 p.m.; Staples at Tri-Town, 6p.m.; Xavier at Northeast Catholic, 6:20p.m.; Guilford at Southington co-op, 7p.m.; Hand at Farmington Valley, 8p.m.
GIRLS HOCKEY
SCC: Hamden co-op at Hand co-op, 2:30p.m.
Others: New Canaan at East Catholic co-op, 11:35a.m.; Stamford co-op at Northwest Catholic co-op, noon; Fairfield co-op at Suffield co-op, 4:20p.m.; Amity co-op at Simsbury, 6:10p.m.
WRESTLING
CIAC State Divisional Championships, Day Two: Class LL (Trumbull HS), 9 a.m.; Class L (Wilton HS), 9a.m.; Class M (East Haven HS), 9a.m.; Class S (Killingly HS), 9a.m.
TRACK AND FIELD
CIAC State Open (Floyd Little AC, New Haven), noon
BOYS SWIMMING
Others: Lewis Mills at Northwestern, 4p.m.
GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Others: Farmington Valley Gymnastics Invitational (Plain

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	35	23	.603	—
Boston	34	26	.567	2
Toronto	32	25	.561	2½
Brooklyn	31	28	.525	4½
New York	25	34	.424	10½

SOUTHEAST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Miami	38	21	.644	—
Atlanta	28	30	.483	9½
Charlotte	29	31	.483	9½
Washington	27	31	.466	10½
Orlando	13	47	.217	25½

CENTRAL				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Chicago	38	21	.644	—
Cleveland	35	23	.603	2½
Milwaukee	36	24	.600	2½
Indiana	20	40	.333	18½
Detroit	13	45	.224	24½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Memphis	41	19	.683	—
Dallas	35	24	.593	5½
San Antonio	23	36	.390	17½
New Orleans	23	36	.390	17½
Houston	15	43	.259	25

NORTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Utah	36	22	.621	—
Denver	33	25	.569	3
Minnesota	31	28	.525	5½
Portland	25	34	.424	11½
Oklahoma City	18	40	.310	18

PACIFIC				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Phoenix	48	10	.828	—
Golden State	42	17	.712	6½
L.A. Clippers	30	31	.492	19½
L.A. Lakers	27	31	.466	21
Sacramento	22	38	.367	27

FRIDAY'S ALL-STAR EVENTS
2022 Rising Stars Challenge
Team Isaiah vs Team Worthy, late
Team Barry vs Team Payton, late
SATURDAY'S ALL-STAR EVENTS
All-Star Practice, 11a.m.
NBA x HBCU Classic, 2p.m.
State Farm All-Star Saturday Night
- Skills Challenge (first event)
- 3-Point Contest (second event)
- Slam Dunk (third event)
SUNDAY, EVENTS
Legends Awards, noon
G League Next Gem Game, 2p.m.
71st NBA All-Star Game, 8 p.m.
THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Washington 117, Brooklyn 103
Miami 111, Charlotte 107(2OT)
Dallas 125, New Orleans 118
Philadelphia 123, Milwaukee 120
L.A. Clippers 142, Houston 111

TEAM LEBRON STARTERS
F Giannis Antetokounmpo, Milwaukee
F LeBron James, L.A. Lakers (captain)
C Stephen Curry, Golden State
G DeMar DeRozan, Chicago
RESERVES
C Jarrett Allen, Cleveland
F Jimmy Butler, Miami
F Luka Doncic, Dallas
G Darius Garland, Cleveland
G James Harden, Philadelphia
G Donovan Mitchell, Utah
G Chris Paul, Phoenix
G Fred VanVleet, Toronto
Coach: Monty Williams, Phoenix

TEAM DURANT STARTERS
F Jayson Tatum, Boston
F Andrew Wiggins, Golden State
C Joel Embiid, Philadelphia
G Ja Morant, Memphis
G Trae Young, Atlanta
RESERVES
G LaMelo Ball, Charlotte
F Devin Booker, Phoenix
F Kevin Durant, Brooklyn (captain/injured)
F Draymond Green, Golden State
C Rudy Gobert, Utah
G Zach LaVine, Chicago
F Khris Middleton, Milwaukee
G DeJounte Murray, San Antonio
C Karl-Anthony Towns, Minnesota
Coach: Erik Spoelstra, Miami

3-POINT CONTESTANTS
Deshaun Bane, Memphis
Luke Kennard, LA Clippers
Zach LaVine, Chicago
CJ McCollum, New Orleans
Patty Mills, Brooklyn
Karl-Anthony Towns, Minnesota
Fred VanVleet, Toronto
Trae Young, Atlanta

SLAM DUNK CONTESTANTS
Cole Anthony, Orlando
Jalen Green, Houston
Juan Toscano-Anderson, Golden State
Obi Toppin, New York

ODDS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL SATURDAY				
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG		
at Baylor	13	TCU		
at Furman	6½	Wofford		
Tulsa	2	at South Florida		
at Navy	17½	Holy Cross		
at Vermont	13½	UMBC		
at UConn	6	Xavier		
at Syracuse	6	Boston College		
at UMass	9	La Salle		
at Texas	2	Texas Tech		
at Kentucky	9	Alabama		
So. Illinois	1½	at Indiana State		
Mississippi	3	at Georgia		
UTEP	8	at So. Mississippi		
at Wake Forest	6	Notre Dame		
at Canisius	1	Niagara		
Dayton	6½	at Saint Joseph's		
at Colgate	7	Boston U.		
Auburn	4½	at Florida		
at Hofstra	12	Northeastern		
at Bradley	9	Illinois State		
Mercer	5½	at W. Carolina		
at Oklahoma St.	4½	Kansas State		
Valparaiso	3	at Evansville		
at Yngstwn St.	17½	IUPUI		
Oral Roberts	10	at North Dakota		
at Iowa State	1½	Oklahoma		
at N. Dakota St.	6	UMKC		
at Ohio State	4½	Iowa		
Akron	6	at E. Michigan		
at Samford	1	UNC Greensboro		
Clemson	1	at Louisville		
Georgia State	3½	at Ga. Southern		
at UT Arlington	2	Arkansas State		
Tarleton State	6½	at Chicago State		
Saint Louis	1	at Davidson		
LSU	1	at South Carolina		
Delaware	9½	at William & Mary		
SF Austin	13	at Lamar		
at Chattanooga	9½	VMI		
at Southern Utah	2	Montana State		
Northwestern	2	at Minnesota		
at Wyoming	16½	Air Force		
at Buffalo	18½	Western Michigan		
Tennessee	1	at Arkansas		
at Virginia Tech	4	North Carolina		
at Villanova	21½	Georgetown		
at Jackson	3½	Virginia		
at Vanderbilt	3	Texas A&M		
at Loyola (Chi.)	9	Duke		
at Saint Brnvture	14½	Duquesne		
Rhode Island	4	at Geo. Wash.		
at Brown	2½	Pennsylvania		
Duke	14	Florida State		
at Boise State	4½	Utah State		
at California	2	Utah		
at Jacksonville	5½	Kennesaw State		
at Pittsburgh	3½	Georgia Tech		
at Arizona State	9	Oregon State		
at Grand Canyon	2½	New Mexico State		
Colorado State	2	at UNLV		
at Seton Hall	9½	DePaul		
Kansas	6	at West Virginia		
at Gonzaga	21	Santa Clara		
at UCSB	3	Long Beach State		
Loyola Marymt	½	at Pacific		
at Saint Mary's	7	BYU		
at Arizona	17	Oregon		
at Stanford	2	Colorado		
at UCLA	18	Washington		
CSU Fullerton	7	at CSUNorthridge		

NHL				
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	Line	
Colorado	-365	at Buffalo	+290	
Edmonton	-137	at Winnipeg	+118	
Boston	-154	at Ottawa	+124	
at Toronto	-137	St. Louis	+114	
Los Angeles	-205	at Arizona	+168	
at Calgary	-285	Seattle	+230	
at Vancouver	-142	Anaheim	+118	

For the latest odds, go to *FanDuel Sportsbook*, <https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/>

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Florida	48	33	10	5	71	197	141		
Tampa Bay	49	32	11	6	70	169	139		
Toronto	47	32	12	3	67	171	126		
Boston	48	27	17	4	58	137	136		
Detroit	51	23	22	6	52	147	176		
Ottawa	47	18	25	4	40	127	151		
Buffalo	49	16	25	8	40	132	170		
Montreal	49	9	33	7	25	109	193		

METRO	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	51	31	12	8	70	170	136
Carolina	47	32	11	4	68	163	112
N.Y. Rangers	49	31	13	5	67	149	126
Washington	52	28	15	9	65	171	145
Columbus	48	24	23	1	49	156	177
N.Y. Islanders	44	18	20	6	42	109	123
Philadelphia	49	15	25	9	39	125	172
New Jersey	50	17	28	5	39	146	182

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Colorado	48	35	9	4	74	193	135		
Minnesota	45	30	12	3	63	174	134		
St. Louis	48	28	14	6	62	169	134		
Nashville	49	28	17	4	60	150	138		
Dallas	47	26	19	2	54	141	142		
Winnipeg	42	22	18	8	52	142	143		
Chicago	50	18	25	7	43	124	170		
Arizona	48	12	32	4	28	108	180		

PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Calgary	47	28	13	6	62	164	112
Vegas	49	28	18	3	59	162	145
Edmonton	48	27	18	3	57	161	152
Los Angeles	48	24	17	7	55	138	135
Anaheim	51	23	19	9	55	149	154
Vancouver	50	23	21	6	52	131	139
San Jose	48	22	21	5	49	130	150
Seattle	50	16	30	4	36	132	178

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Nashville at Carolina, late
Florida at Minnesota, late
Dallas at Chicago, late
Los Angeles at Vegas, late

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Colorado at Buffalo, 1p.m.
Edmonton at Winnipeg, 4p.m.
Boston at Ottawa, 7p.m.
St. Louis at Toronto, 7p.m.
Los Angeles at Arizona, 9p.m.
Anaheim at Vancouver, 10p.m.
Seattle at Calgary, 10p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Carolina at Pittsburgh, 1p.m.
Montreal at N.Y. Islanders, 2p.m.
Florida at Chicago, 3p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Ottawa, 5p.m.
Buffalo at Columbus, 6p.m.
Dallas at Arizona, 7p.m.
Minnesota at Edmonton, 8p.m.
Vegas at San Jose, 8p.m.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Ottawa 3, Buffalo 1
Toronto 4, Pittsburgh 1
Washington 5, Philadelphia 3
Montreal 3, St. Louis 2(OT)
Detroit 3, N.Y. Rangers 2(SO)
N.Y. Islanders 4, Boston 1
Winnipeg 5, Seattle 3
Columbus 7, Chicago 4
Edmonton 7, Anaheim 3
Vancouver 5, San Jose 4(OT)

GOLF

LATE THURSDAY: PGA GENESIS INVITATIONAL
1st of 4 rounds, Riviera CC, Pacific Palisades, Calif., 7,322 yards; Par 71

Joaquin Niemann	31-32	-63	-8
Scottie Scheffler	32-34	-66	-5
Jordan Spieth	34-32	-66	-5
Cameron Young	33-33	-66	-5
Max Homa	35-31	-66	-5
C.T. Pan	33-34	-67	-4
Collin Morikawa	34-33	-67	-4
Jason Kokrak	32-35	-67	-4
Cameron Smith	33-34	-67	-4
Justin Thomas	31-36	-67	-4
Charley Hoffman	34-33	-67	-4
Kevin Tway	36-32	-68	-3
Patton Kizzire	33-35	-68	-3
Martin Laird	35-33	-68	-3
Maverick McNealy	34-34	-68	-3
Russell Knox	33-35	-68	-3
Adam Long	34-34	-68	-3
Adam Scott	36-32	-68	-3
Carlos Ortiz	35-33	-68	-3
Paul Casey	33-35	-68	-3
Dylan Frittelli	31-37	-68	-3
Keegan Bradley	32-37	-69	-2
Alex Smalley	34-35	-69	-2
Emiliano Grillo	36-33	-69	-2
Matthew NeSmith	34-35	-69	-2
Tony Finau	36-33	-69	-2
Jon Rahm	33-36	-69	-2
Xander Schauffele	34-35	-69	-2
Peter Malnati	34-35	-69	-2
Sahitja Theegala	31-38	-69	-2
Chesson Hadley	33-36	-69	-2
Doc Redman	33-36	-69	-2
Cameron Tringale	33-36	-69	-2
Beau Hossler	34-35	-69	-2
Taylor Moore	35-34	-69	-2
Hank Lebioda	33-36	-69	-2
Abraham Ancer	37-32	-69	-2
Matt Kuchar	36-33	-69	-2
Rory McIlroy	35-34	-69	-2
Si Woo Kim	35-34	-69	-2
Patrick Rodgers	35-34	-69	-2
Will Zalatoris	32-37	-69	-2
Danny Lee	37-33	-70	-1
Alex Noren	35-35	-70	-1
Jhonattan Vegas	36-34	-70	-1
Andrew Putnam	34-36	-70	-1
Seamus Power	34-36	-70	-1
J.T. Poston	35-35	-70	-1
Joel Dahmen	34-36	-70	-1
Matt Jones	34-36	-70	-1
Marc Leishman	36-34	-70	-1
Bubba Watson	33-37	-70	-1
Aaron Wise	33-37	-70	-1
Sam Ryder	35-35	-70	-1
Pat Perez	34-36	-70	-1
Mito Pereira	34-36	-70	-1
Scott Piercy	32-38	-70	-1
Sebastian Munoz	34-36	-70	-1
Francesco Molinari	34-36	-70	-1
Patrick Cantlay	34-36	-70	-1

CHAMPIONS CHUBB CLASSIC
1st of 3 rounds, The Black Course Naples, Fla., 6,909 yards; Par 72

Bernhard Langer	34-30	-64	-8
Robert Karlsson	33-33	-66	-6
Tim Petrovic	32-34	-66	-6
Retief Goosen	31-36	-67	-5
Thongchai Jaidee	33-34	-67	-5
Paul Stankowski	34-33	-67	-5
Doug Barron	35-33	-68	-4
Paul Broadhurst	31-37	-68	-4
Scott Dunlap	36-32	-68	-4
Steve Flesch	33-35	-68	-4
Jerry Kelly	33-35	-68	-4
Rocco Mediate	34-34	-68	-4
Billy Andrade	34-35	-69	-3
Joe Durant	33-36	-69	-3
Ernie Els	34-35	-69	-3
Paul Goydos	34-35	-69	-3
Rod Pampling	33-36	-69	-3
Woody Austin	35-35	-70	-2
Glen Day	34-36	-70	-2
Ken Duke	35-35	-70	-2
Brian Gay	32-38	-70	-2
Scott Parel	32-38	-70	-2
Dicky Bird	35-35	-70	-2
Ken Tanigawa	32-38	-70	-2
Y.E. Yang	36-34	-70	-2
Steven Alker	35-36	-71	-1
Fred Funk	34-37	-71	-1
Jim Furyk	36-35	-71	-1
Miguel Angel Jimenez	36-35	-71	-1
Brandt Jobe	35-36	-71	-1
Tom Lehman	34-37	-71	-1
Mauricio Molina	34-37	-71	-1
Tom Pernice	36-35	-71	-1
David Toms	36-35	-71	-1
Kirk Triplett	34-37	-71	-1
Alex Cejka	34-38	-72	E
Chris DiMarco	37-35	-72	E
Lee Janzen	36-36	-72	E
Stephen Leaney	34-38	-72	E
Billy Mayfair	35-37	-72	E
Will McCarron	35-37	-72	E
Colin Montgomerie	38-34	-72	E
Wes Short	38-34	-72	E
Mark Calavecchia	35-38	-73	+1
K.J. Choi	35-38	-73	+1
Marco Dawson	38-35	-73	+1
Bob Estes	36-37	-73	+1
Brett Quigley	38-35	-73	+1
Kevin Sutherland	33-40	-73	+1
Tommy Tolles	36-37	-73	+1
Mike Weir	35-38	-73	+1

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Today: vs. Xavier (at Gampel), noon, FOX

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Sunday: vs. Georgetown, 2 p.m., CBSN

UConn
COURANT.COM/SPORTS

R&D

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Connecticut's Carter Turnbull (8), shown in action earlier on the season, had the Huskies' lone goal in a 2-1 loss to UMass on Friday night at the XL Center. **STEW MILNE/AP**



COLLEGE HOCKEY

UMass downs UConn, 2-1

Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — The Friday night Hockey East matchup between No. 20 UConn and No. 10 and defending national champion UMass at the XL Center lived up to its billing. After two scoreless periods, UMass finally solved UConn goalie Darion Hanson on the way to a 2-1 win. The Minutemen finally broke through with a power-play goal by Ryan Ufko 7:46 into the third period. The goal was set up when the Huskies' Jarrod Gourley was sent off for high-sticking at 7:26 and Ufko cashed in 20 seconds later. Josh Lopina gave UMass a cushion with a goal with 2:55 left. The Huskies' Carter Turnbull got UConn on the board with 1:08

remaining. Hanson had 33 saves. UMass (17-9-2 and 12-5-2) outshot UConn 35-20 and has now won five of six. The loss ends a four-game win streak by the Huskies (16-12-0, 12-7-0). The two teams close out the home-and-home series at Amherst, Mass., on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Following that game, UConn has four games left - home-and-homes with Northeastern and Vermont before the Hockey East tournament begins on March 9. UConn 20 16-11-0 / 12-6-0 4 straight 7 of 8 - tied third BU UMass 10 16-9-2 /11-5-2 won 4 of 5 At Mullins center Amherst 7:30 UConn has four games left - home and homes with Northeastern and Vermont before HE turney begins on March 9

BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Champagne scores 31 to carry St. John's past Butler 91-57

Associated Press

Julian Champagne had 31 points as St. John's easily defeated Butler 91-57 on Friday night in New York. Aaron Wheeler had 16 points for St. John's (15-11, 7-8 Big East Conference). Posh Alexander added 13 points and 10 assists. Jayden Taylor had 19 points and six rebounds for the Bulldogs (13-14, 6-10).

Men

from Page 1

one is important. UConn is currently tied with Creighton for third place behind Providence and Villanova. "This is the time of the year where there are a couple of weeks left in the regular season," he said. "Teams at this time of the year that don't thrive either feel the pressure and underperform because they don't have the stomach for it, they are fatigued, or there is selfishness in the team. Those are three reasons why teams lose at this point in the year." On the injury front, forward Akok Akok continues to recover from his foot sprain. "Akok did more," Hurley said. "He's got a chance to return soon." Here's everything you need to know about the matchup:

Site: Gampel Pavilion, Storrs
Time: Noon
Series: Tied 2-2
Last meeting: Xavier won, 74-68, on Feb 11, 2022, at Cintas Center.
TV: FOX (Tim Brando and Donny Marshall)
Live Stream: Fox Sports app
Radio: UConn Sports Network (Mike Crispino, Wayne Norman). XM-201. Sirius-137. XM-201. SXM app-964. 979-ESPN Hartford. WILI-1400-AM (Willi-mantic). WATR-1320-AM (Waterbury). WAVZ-1300-AM (New Haven). WGCH-1490-AM (Greenwich).

Xavier (17-8, 7-7 Big East) probable starters, sixth man
Paul Scruggs, G, 6-5, Sr.; Colby Jones, G, 6-6, So.; Nate Johnson, G, 6-4, Sr.; Zach Freemantle, F, 6-9, Jr.; Jack Nunge, F, 7-0, Jr.; Dwon Odom, G, 6-2, So.
No. 24 UConn (18-7, 9-5)

probable starters, sixth man
R.J. Cole, G, 6-1, GS; Isaiah Whaley, F, 6-9, GS; Adama Sanogo, F, 6-9, So.; Tyrese Martin, G/F, 6-6, Sr.; Andre Jackson, G/F, 6-6, So.; Jordan Hawkins, G, 6-5, Fr.

The matchup

UConn's offense: The focus should be on converting fastbreak opportunities, an area where UConn struggled last time out against Xavier.
UConn's defense: The Huskies need to play better interior defense and limit points in the paint. Xavier had 36 paint points in the first meeting.
Xavier's offense: Nunge is the player to watch on the offensive end as he averages 13.8 points per game. He put up 22 points on 6-for-11 shooting against the Huskies in their previous game.
Xavier's defense: Xavier is tied for No. 65 in Division I with a defensive rating of 106.6, which will be a good test for the UConn offense that has struggled the past few games.
UConn's key: Win the rebounding battle while finishing fastbreak opportunities.
Player to watch: Sanogo. In their previous game against Xavier, he dealt with foul trouble and his presence was missed on the court for UConn. Making sure he stays out of foul trouble is pivotal.
About Xavier's coach: Travis Steele. He was a finalist for the Joe B. Hall National Coach of the Year Award in the 2018-19 season.
Xavier's mascot: Musketeer, chosen in 1925.
Xavier famous alumni: Former NBA player James Posey.

Shreyas Laddha can be reached at sladdha@courant.com or at shre98 on Twitter

Transgender swimmers bring spotlight to Ivy championship

Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — There isn't much to indicate anything other than a typical college swim meet is taking place this week at Harvard University's Blodgett Pool. No demonstrations or protests outside the building. But there is evidence of the discussion surrounding the sport during the past year. An "8 Against Hate" sign is displayed above the pool between flags representing each of the schools competing in the Ivy League women's swimming championship. Athletes from several schools also wore shirts featuring the statement. There's also the public address announcement made before every session that reminds spectators the conference is committed to putting on an event "free of racist, homophobic or transphobic discrimination." For Lia Thomas and Iszac

Henig, it's an example of the environment that has surrounded both for more than a year as they've sought to showcase their talents and compete at the sport's highest level. Their personal journeys and participation in the Ivy championships are the latest in an ongoing national conversation about the rules that govern the participation of transgender athletes in college athletics. Both Thomas, a senior at the University of Pennsylvania, and Henig, a junior at Yale University, are transgender. Thomas is a transgender woman and former male swimmer for the Quakers, and has followed the NCAA and Ivy League's rules since she began her transition in 2019 by starting hormone replacement therapy. Henig is swimming for Yale's women's team while transitioning to male, and he competes in some of the same events as Thomas. Thomas has been a star this

season, entering this week's championship as the top qualifier in the 200-, 500- and 1,650-meter freestyle events. Some of her wins this season have been by wide margins, including in Thursday's 500-meter freestyle final, which she won by half a pool length and set a new pool record in a time of 4:37.32. It's prompted some — purportedly on her own team — to question whether she has an advantage since she was born as a biological male. At Penn's final home swim meet of the season, protesters who opposed her participation yelled things like, "Stand up for women! Even when they're swimming! Men cannot be women!" But Thomas has also been beaten by Henig, who won a meeting last month in the 100-meter freestyle. Thomas finished sixth. They have a chance to go head-to-head again on Friday; Henig and Thomas are the top two qualifiers in the 100 freestyle.



UConn's Nika Muhl looks to pass around the defense of Xavier's Shaila Beeler during first-half action in Cincinnati on Friday. **ISAAC FIELY/COURTESY OF XAVIER / SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

Women

from Page 1

started to click on offense. In just the second game since Bueckers went down that UConn has had an otherwise fully healthy roster, seven players played between 14 and 34 minutes. "When you have a lot of players and you want to play a lot of players, that's all well and good, but that really disrupts the flow of your offense," Auriemma said. "It's tough to get any kind of a flow. I thought tonight it may have taken us a little bit of time. But we have a lot of players who can put the ball in the basket a lot of different ways, and I thought they showed that tonight." The turning point came in the second quarter, when Auriemma thought the Huskies finally stopped going through the motions on defense, allowing them to dominate offensively. UConn ultimately scored 29 points off 23 Xavier turnovers. The Huskies (18-5, 12-1 Big East) looked lethargic out of the gate, committing eight turnovers in the first 14 minutes. Xavier's poor shooting (3 for 17 in the first quarter) prevented the Musketeers from keeping it any closer, but they started to find the back of the net at the beginning of the second to close within six. "I thought the way we started the game, we expected to just come out here and not have to work at it. It was really disappointing," Auriemma said. "There was

obviously a huge difference in our team from the way we played that first quarter and the way we played the last 30 minutes." UConn turned things around in the final six minutes of the second period, using a 21-2 run featuring 19 unanswered points to jump ahead 44-19 at the break. Fudd and Ducharme got the run started with a pair of threes, and then the Huskies used better defense to fuel their offense, scoring 10 points off seven Xavier turnovers and holding the Musketeers scoreless for the final 6:20 of the first half. "It always starts with [defense]," Auriemma said. "Anytime you cheat on defense, anytime you don't put any effort into it, it's going to show in the other end too." The onslaught on both ends continued into the third quarter, where UConn scored the first 18 points of the second half and bested Xavier 23-5 in the frame. Mackayla Scarlett converted a pair from the free-throw line at the 2:05 mark to snap the Musketeers' scoreless streak dating back to the 6:20 mark of the second. Huskies forced six more Xavier turnovers (seven) than shots they allowed from the field (one) in the third. UConn further put the game away by outscoring the Musketeers (8-17, 3-13) 22-11 in the fourth. In the final three quarters, Auriemma's squad shot 66% from the field and turned the ball over just eight times. The Huskies are back in action

Sunday at the XL Center versus Georgetown. And Auriemma will be expecting them to come out the same way they finished the game Friday. "You've got to be the same every night from here on in," Auriemma said. "There's no 'we're building towards something.' This is it. This is what we were building for, so now it's here."

UConn 89, XAVIER 35

UConn	M	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	PT
Williams	34	5-10	2-2	2	5	1	13
Fudd	22	4-7	0-0	1	0	2	11
Edwards	25	4-5	2-2	7	2	4	10
Muhl	25	3-3	0-0	2	1	2	8
Juhasz	22	2-4	1-4	4	4	1	5
Ducharme	13	4-7	1-2	4	2	1	11
Gabriel	8	5-7	1-2	4	0	0	11
Nelson-Ododa	15	2-3	4-4	4	4	2	8
Westbrook	29	3-4	0-0	5	5	1	7
DeBerry	7	2-4	0-0	0	3	0	5
TOTALS	—	34-54	11-16	35	26	14	89
Three-point goals: 10-21, 47.6 (Fudd 3-5, Muhl 2-2, Ducharme 2-5, Westbrook 1-1, DeBerry 1-3, Williams 1-4, Juhasz 0-1). FG pct.: 63.0. FT pct.: 68.8. Team rebounds: 2. Turnovers: 13 (Williams 3, Juhasz 3, Westbrook 3, Nelson-Ododa 2, Fudd, Ducharme). Blocks: 7 (Juhasz 3, Williams 2, Nelson-Ododa, DeBerry). Steals: 13 (Williams 4, Muhl 2, Ducharme 2, Westbrook 2, Fudd, Edwards, Juhasz).							
Xavier	M	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	PT
Townsend	27	3-8	0-0	3	0	4	6
Calhoun	28	2-10	0-0	8	2	0	4
Beeler	24	1-4	1-1	0	4	2	3
Harris	23	0-5	1-2	4	0	2	1
Prenger	31	0-5	0-0	6	1	1	0
Woods	25	5-9	0-2	0	2	2	14
Scarlett	19	1-7	4-4	0	1	3	7
Harkey	23	0-2	0-0	2	0	2	0
TOTALS	—	12-50	6-9	26	10	16	35
Three-point goals: 5-12, 41.7 (Woods 4-6, Scarlett 1-6). FG pct.: 24.0. FT pct.: 66.7. Team rebounds: 3. Turnovers: 23 (Prenger 4, Harkey 4, Townsend 3, Calhoun 3, Scarlett 3, Beeler 2). Steals: 8 (Townsend 2, Prenger 2, Calhoun, Beeler, Scarlett, Harkey). UConn; 18; 26; 23; 22; —; 89. Xavier; 9; 10; 5; 11; —; 35. Officials: Resch, Morris, Inouye. Att.: 5,087 at Cintas Center, Cincinnati, Ohio.							

Did you know?

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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

MLB cancels block of spring games



Major League Baseball canceled the first week of spring training games through March 4 in the first public acknowledgement of the disruption caused by the lockout. The announcement Friday came with the work stoppage in its 79th day, and a day after talks on economics between management and the Major League Baseball Players Association lasted just 15 minutes. Negotiators are set to resume bargaining on core economics on Monday, and MLB said members of the owners' negotiating committee will attend the session, just the seventh on the central issues of the dispute since the lockout began Dec. 2. Spring training was to have started this week, and the exhibition schedule on Feb. 26. There were 16 games set for that day. "We regret that, without a collective bargaining agreement in place, we must postpone the start of spring training games until no earlier than Saturday, March 5," MLB said in a statement. Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred, pictured, has said the lockout decision was made to control timing and prevent a late-season strike in the absence of a labor contract.

IOC president takes shots at Russians



IOC President Thomas Bach, pictured, joined the global bandwagon of support for Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva on Friday, criticizing her entourage and questioning whether 15-year-old athletes should be put under such pressure at the Olympics. His tone surprised Olympic observers — accustomed to hearing Bach defend Russian athletes despite the massive 2014 doping scandal — and drew a quick rebuke from Moscow. Valieva's emotional breakdown after a mistake-strewn skate and unforgiving questioning by her coach made millions of viewers cringe, especially after a week-long drama over her positive drug test. Bach said he felt the same way, spending much of his news conference taking rare swipes at Russia. "I was very, very disturbed yesterday when I watched the competition on TV," Bach said at an Olympics that began with Vladimir Putin sitting in the VIP section at the opening ceremony despite a Russian troop buildup near the Ukraine border. Bach had direct criticism of Valieva's entourage, saying they showed "a tremendous coldness, it was chilling to see this."

Mickelson praises Saudi-backed tour



Phil Mickelson has told a journalist writing a biography on him that he recruited three other "top players" for the Saudi-backed golf league and they paid attorneys to write the operating agreement for the league. In another inflammatory moment for the six-time major champion, Mickelson said his end game is more about a chance to reshape the PGA Tour than for the Saudi league to succeed. His comments came from an interview with Alan Shipnuck, whose book on Mickelson is due in May. Shipnuck posted a story based on the phone interview on "The Firepit Collective" website. "They're scary mother (expletive) to get involved with," Mickelson says. "We know they killed (Washington Post reporter Jamal) Khashoggi and have a horrible record on human rights. They execute people over there for being gay. Knowing all of this, why would I even consider it? Because this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reshape how the PGA Tour operates." Mickelson said the PGA Tour has been used "manipulative, coercive, strong-arm tactics" because players had no recourse. —AP



Eileen Gu is the first action-sports athlete to earn three medals at the same Winter Olympics. MARCO BERTORELLO/AFP

OLYMPICS WOMEN'S SKIING

Gu goes global

Coming-out party ends with 3rd Olympic medal

By Eddie Pells
Associated Press

ZHANGJIAKOU, China — Pure joy on the halfpipe looked like this on a sunny, windswept day at the Beijing Olympics: —It was multinational freeskiing sensation Eileen Gu learning her gold medal was secure, then falling to her knees at the top of that halfpipe, covering her mouth with her mittens and screaming "Oh my God!" —It was the 18-year-old superstar doing straight airs all the way down the pipe, gleefully punching her fists and poles downward as she vaulted herself above the lip, enjoying every last second of a victory run that meant nothing — and everything. —It was Gu wearing a furry panda hat as she climbed the podium, smiling wide and belly laughing while accepting her third Bing Dwen Dwen mascot of the Olympics — one for each medal she's won. "I was very emotional at the top and I chose to do a victory lap," Gu said of her breezy final ride down the pipe Friday. "Because I felt like, for the first time, I really deserved it and I really earned it." There were smiles mixed with tears as Gu mingled with her competitors, the coaches and the media at the bottom — a huge sense of pride

blended with incredible relief. Her two-week odyssey in China included 16 combined runs down halfpipe, slopestyle and big air courses and countless more practice trips down those same icy expanses. By winning her gold, in a state-of-the-art contest over defending champion Cassie Sharpe, Gu is the first action-sports athlete to win three medals at the same Olympics. Two were gold and one was silver. "She has basically set a level that's pretty unattainable for a lot of us," said American freeskier Carly Margulies, who finished 11th. Gu's trip to China was about more than sports. About 30 months ago, she took a chance and made a statement when she decided to wear the colors of her mother's homeland — China, the host country — instead of those of her native United States. She received some love and some hate for that move. She explained it time and again: She did it to inspire girls in China. There was little in the way of winter-sports culture here when she was younger. There certainly is now. "We're not here to break limits for a country, we're here to break a human limit," Gu said. Good intentions aside, her trip to the Olympics was ultimately destined to be gauged, at least on the outside, by how she did on the slopes. Yet again, with the pressure on and the world watching, Gu delivered. With her latest win, she stayed undefeated on the halfpipe

this season. "She's a machine," Sharpe said. A magazine cover girl who scored 1580 (out of 1600) on the SAT and is Stanford-bound next, Gu saves her finest artwork for the snow. Her latest performance launched her into the debate about best Olympic performances of all time. When it comes to action sports, the versatile teenager is in the same conversation with snowboarder Shaun White, whose pressure-packed victory four years ago was an all-timer; it earned him a third gold medal over the span of 12 years. And with her friend Chloe Kim, who has dominated her sport for a decade and left China with her second snowboarding gold in two tries. It seemed only fitting that the final event of Gu's freeski trifecta came in the same halfpipe where Kim won and White bid an emotional farewell to the Olympics the week before. More than any other place in the action park, the halfpipe is where Olympic stars are born. As Gu prepared to head down it for the first time of her last event, she placed her hands on her hips and closed her eyes, then repeated one sentence three times. "I said 'My name is Eileen Gu,'" she told reporters as tears welled up in her eyes, "and I'm the best halfpipe skier in the world." After the pep talk, she pulled down her goggles, took off down the hill and proved that one more time.

OLYMPICS WOMEN'S FIGURE SKATING

Valieva case fuels age limit debate

By James Ellingworth
Associated Press

BEIJING — The doping case involving Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva has led to many more questions than answers. Some skaters think it's time to ask another: Should a 15-year-old be in the Olympics at all? "You want these athletes to have an opportunity to have this be a profession, not a one-year run at it," Mariah Bell, at 25 the oldest U.S. national champion in nearly a century, said after skating Tuesday. "If we had an age (minimum) limit, I think it would promote that idea of longevity and somebody being 25 wouldn't be shocking at an Olympics." Valieva was allowed to skate Tuesday in the short program partly because her age gives her extra rights as a "protected person" in a doping case. She skated again on Thursday but fell twice and ended up in fourth place, missing out on an Olympic medal. The case comes as some skating officials push to raise the minimum age for her event from 15 to 17 in time for the 2026 Milan-Cortina Olympics. Bell suggested a minimum of 18. Reformers argue a change would protect the wellbeing of child athletes and reduce the risk of injuries from straining the body into ever-more spectacular jumps. "I think that (the Valieva case) really will push this forward and hopefully it will also put this question forward to other sports federations," Norwegian Skating Federation president Mona Adolfsen, who supports the change. Valieva, she added, "is a child, so whatever happened, we feel sorry for her." The issue is expected to go to a vote at the International Skating Union congress in June. It's unclear if it will pass. Russia is opposed and the United States and Canada declined to say how they'll vote. The Valieva doping case has put the spotlight on Russian coach Eteri Tutberidze, who transformed the sport with a "Quad Squad" performing risky but high-scoring quadruple jumps. Her skaters often have blink-and-you'll-miss-it careers, and it's not unusual to retire at 18 or 19, sometimes with severe injuries. Almost all quads ever landed in women's international competitions were performed by under-18s. International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach criticized the people with Valieva, though did not mention anyone by name. Anna Shcherbakova won the gold medal and Alexandra Trusova earned silver. Both are Russians and both are 17. Trusova shouted "I hate this sport" after Valieva finished her routine on Thursday. "If they raise the age, the motivation to create a skater who has longevity is higher," Swiss skater Alexia Paganini said. "You are forced to think about a technique that can be maintained throughout your entire adult career." Others argue younger skaters deserve the limelight and shouldn't have to wait for an Olympic chance. Raising the minimum could mean more cases like that of Trusova. She won the world junior title in 2018 at the age of 13, and her score would also have won the senior world title that year, but she wasn't eligible. Figure skating has long struggled to balance artistic performances against athleticism in its often-disputed scoring system. Adolfsen argues the artistry is what connects best with the public, and that comes with experience. "I hope that the development will be that it's possible to learn the quads also for the women later, but maybe in the big picture that's not the most important thing in figure skating," Adolfsen said. "They remember (1984 and 1988 Olympic champion) Katarina Witt still, and that's not because of the difficult jumps. It was because of the performance." Age affects male and female skaters differently. Men tend to develop later and have longer careers, but still face injury risks. Only six of 30 skaters in the women's short program Tuesday were also at the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics. The men's event had twice as many returnees from four years ago, and Michal Brezina of the Czech Republic skated at his fourth Olympics. Adolfsen is concerned about other sports, too. That might face opposition from the International Olympic Committee. It eagerly promoted the youngest athletes at last year's Tokyo Olympics, like 13-year-old skateboarding medalist Sky Brown, who competed a year after suffering a fractured skull in a training accident. Different sports set their own minimum ages. Women's gymnastics requires competitors to turn 16 in the year the Olympics are held — though some teams have faked gymnasts' ages. Olympic boxers must be at least 18. Bell believes a higher minimum age would allow skaters more time to become known to a wider audience. "If you look at (2006 Olympic silver medalist) Sasha Cohen and (five-time world champion) Michelle Kwan, they were competing at a time where they did it for so many years they had people that can back them," Bell said. "I think it gave a great outlook for the sport because people could really follow their careers."



Kamila Valieva reacts after skating during the free skate program on Thursday. CATHERINE IVILL/GETTY

MOTORING

COURANT.COM/CLASSIFIED/AUTOMOTIVE

SOFTWARE BUGS GETTING UNDER CAR OWNERS' SKIN

Automakers have made a rocky transition into the digital age

By Jack Ewing
The New York Times

About six months after Gary Gilpin leased a Subaru Outback from a California dealer, the screen went blank and wouldn't come back on. Gilpin took the car to the dealer for what he figured would be a quick reset.

"It was a whole month before I got my car back," said Gilpin, who runs a sailboat chartering and brokerage business.

Some people would have just fumed. Gilpin sued.

He is among thousands of car owners, encouraged by plaintiffs' lawyers, who have joined class-action lawsuits that accuse carmakers of selling vehicles with faulty entertainment and related systems. Their complaints are as numerous as they are varied: screens that freeze, flicker or go dark; sound that cuts out or unexpectedly blasts at high volume; backup cameras that fail. Often the problems involve the way in which the hardware interacts with Apple's CarPlay or Google's Android Auto software, which allow drivers to use their phones to navigate, communicate or listen to music and podcasts.

Buggy car software may seem like a mere inconvenience. But plaintiffs have successfully argued that a malfunctioning dashboard display is a serious distraction and potential safety hazard.

The suits are a symptom of the automakers' rocky transition to the digital age and their struggle to integrate the latest technology into vehicles, which must meet safety requirements that smartphones and other electronics do not. Old-line automakers are losing ground to Tesla and other young electric carmakers that have placed much greater emphasis on software. And in their own cars, established automakers are effectively handing over more power to Apple and Google, which dominate the digital world.

So far, the settlements that automakers have had to pay are relatively modest. In 2020, Subaru settled the suit brought by Gilpin and others; it cost the company an estimated \$8 million, including lawyer fees and an extra two years of warranty protection.

In December, Honda of America and its Acura subsidiary agreed to settle a similar class action for an estimated \$30 million, according to plaintiffs' lawyers, including extending the warranty on systems that buyers complained were flawed. Neither Subaru nor Honda admitted any wrongdoing. Honda declined to comment, and Subaru did not respond to requests for comment.

The case that set the precedent was brought by Ford Motor customers who complained of defects with the MyFord Touch system. The automaker settled that lawsuit in 2019 for \$17 million without admitting any wrongdoing.

But the stakes for carmakers go far beyond the cost of the lawsuits.

As the lawsuits indicate, traditional carmakers have struggled to develop navigation systems and other services that work as well as the ones found in Apple and Google devices. They are also far behind Tesla, which loads the large interactive screens in its cars with software developed in house and does not support CarPlay or Android Auto.

Established carmakers have



Subaru settled the lawsuit brought by Gary Gilpin, above, and others, costing the company an estimated \$8 million, including lawyer fees.
TERRY RATZLAFF/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS



The dashboard of Gilpin's Subaru Outback. Gilpin sued Subaru after his car's entertainment system failed to work.

been forced to cede valuable dashboard real estate to Silicon Valley, while remaining the target of consumer ire — and lawsuits — when something goes wrong.

Before Big Tech invaded car interiors, the automakers were lords of their realm, dictating terms to suppliers. But Apple and Google command financial

resources and software expertise that even auto giants cannot match.

"The game has completely changed," said Axel Schmidt, a senior managing director at Accenture who manages the consulting firm's automotive division. The big automakers, he said, "are not used to dealing with partners that are much stronger and bigger than themselves."

Software makers' clout over the car industry will only grow as vehicles incorporate more and more driver-assistance systems and other digital technology.

The automakers are in a tough spot. They operate on timelines that are out of step with the speed of digital technology. A new vehicle typically takes four years to develop, including laborious safety testing. Owners often drive the same car for more than a decade, an eternity in the tech world.

"The time window of developing vehicles and putting the hardware into those vehicles is quite different than for a cellphone," said Mark Wakefield, co-leader of the automotive and industrial practice at AlixPartners, a consulting firm. "When a vehicle is done, it's done. Software is never really done."

Apple introduces a new iPhone about once a year, and releases new versions of its operating system even more frequently, as does Google. Carmakers face the nearly impossible task of design-

ing entertainment systems that work flawlessly with software and devices that haven't been invented yet.

"After every update we get complaints CarPlay is not working," said Serhat Kurt, who operates a website, macReports, that provides advice on fixing problems with Apple devices.

Kurt faulted both the carmakers and Apple — the carmakers for being "not very good with software," and Apple for not doing enough to ensure that software updates work with older vehicles.

Lawsuits so far have blamed established carmakers, not Apple or Google. Sean Matt, a partner in Seattle at Hagens Berman, the law firm that represented owners in the suit against Honda, said he "can sympathize with the engineering challenge" that carmakers face in designing systems that work flawlessly with ever-changing smartphone software.

But Matt added, "They are giving you a product and saying it will work, and ultimately the onus is on them."

As established carmakers pack vehicles with more and more technology, flawed software seems likely to continue to generate lawsuits.

The carmakers "are getting better at technology," said Benjamin Johns, a partner at the law firm that represented Subaru owners. "But the technology is continuing to evolve."

Ram teases electric 1500 pickup

By Breana Noble
The Detroit News

Ram's electric pickup truck still is two years away, but the "Built to Serve" brand is giving the public a tease of a concept vehicle and an opportunity to share what they want from the EV.

The Stellantis NV make launched RamRevolution.com on Feb. 8. It's a hub that will give customers an inside look at Ram's "EV philosophy" and a forum to share what they want from the new truck. The brand also will

hold a "Ram Real Talk Tour," a series of conversations over the next year at various events for truck owners to speak with designers and engineers about what an electric pickup must do to meet their needs. "Our mission with an EV truck is to be the best, to design and build trucks that solve our owners' real-world needs," Ram CEO Mike Koval Jr. said. "We are building an EV that is all truck and no compromise. It will tow, haul and go the distance and stay on the job no matter what we ask of it."

The Ram 1500 Battery Electric Vehicle will launch in 2024 after Ram's all-electric ProMaster commercial van in 2023, which already has a buyer in Amazon.com Inc.

"We are in full motion of our plan. Our focus is on bringing the right product at the right time with the range, towing and hauling our customers need," Koval said. "We will once again redefine the full-size segment with electrification in terms of range, power and convenience that pushes past our competitors' offerings."



Ram shows off the 2022 Ram 1500 Built to Serve Edition at the Chicago Auto Show on Feb. 10. SCOTT OLSON/GETTY

Stellantis CEO Carlos Tavares has said the additional time gives the automaker the chance to see what its competitors are doing and outdo their offerings at launch.

"More and more truck intend-

ers," Koval said, "are open to the idea of heavy electrification, but they're not willing to compromise on their core attributes of capability and power."

That's something Koval says he feels Ram is doing differently — going directly to customers to get their input.



The 2022 Toyota Tundra i-Force MAX. TOYOTA

AUTO REVIEW

Toyota Tundra i-Force MAX a mean, green fightin’ machine

By Henry Payne
The Detroit News

CARMEL VALLEY, California — The best pickups are Swiss Army knives. From towing utility to off-road fun, today’s trucks offer a tall toolbox of capability.

Add the 2022 Toyota Tundra i-Force MAX to the list. MAX as in maximum hybrid performance.

I usually get my grins in the Carmel Valley region from driving sports cars at Laguna Seca, one of the country’s premier racetracks. But with a whopping, best-in-class 583-pound feet of torque and an independent rear suspension, the Tundra hybrid was a hoot to drive through the surrounding hills.

“Did you try SPORT-Plus mode?” grinned Toyota truck chief engineer Mike Swears after a returned from a day of misbehaving. Yes, I did, its quick shifts belting me in the back like — well, a Viper SRT — in order to MAX-mize torque.

Pushing the envelope of performance modes shows the expectations Toyota has for i-Force MAX. The first clean-sheet Tundra since the 2007 Stone Age, the light duty truck is a comprehensive remake learning the best Swiss Army features of pickups from Ram to F-150 to

2022 Toyota Tundra i-Force MAX

Price: \$53,995; (\$68,500 TRD Pro and \$69,110 1794 trim as tested)

Powerplant: Hybrid, 3.5-liter twin-turbo V-6 with electric motor battery assist

Power: 437 horsepower, 583 pound-feet of torque

Transmission: 10-speed automatic

Performance: 0-60 mph, 5.7 seconds; towing, 10,340 lbs. (Capstone as tested); payload, 1,600 lbs. (TRD Pro)

Fuel economy: EPA: 20 mpg city/24 highway/22 combined

Silverado to Sierra.

This is a mean, green fightin’ machine.

Like GMC, Tundra brings a muscled bod with meaty fenders and upright fascia — all snapped together in a bold style that will make LEGO fans drool.

Macho has been the name of the game in pickup bed wars. With the added weight of hybrid batteries in his Tundra, engineer Swears looked long and hard at aluminum for weight-saving. Toyota customers had already complained of scarring in their steel beds. So Toyota went a third way: composites. Composites offered a handsome veneer, the strength of steel, the light weight of aluminum.

Starting at \$35K, Tundra trucks get wireless Apple CarPlay/Android Auto, blind-spot assist, adaptive cruise control and auto headlights.

By the time you ascend to Limited trim — where the hybrid engine kicks in — the Tundra is slathered in goodies including hydraulic chassis mounts and crisp 12.5-inch instrument and 14-inch console displays. They anchor an interior that echoes the exterior’s LEGO look.

The cockpit is comfy, easy to navigate with cubby storage everywhere. The breakthrough here is the hybrid powertrain.

Toyota fashioned a one-motor system that does it all: low-end towing/fuel economy/open-throttle joy in one package.

The Toyota mill is focused on good old-fashioned performance with a nice 45% torque boost over the outgoing V-8. Tundra clean-and-jerked a 4,500-pound Airstream with ease.

Trucks are the new luxury, and Tundra Hybrid plays in a space more familiar to Lexus buyers. The Limited Hybrid starts at \$54K. Want to TRD Pro? Get out \$68,500 for my tester. At \$75,225, you can have a Tundra Capstone.

Pricey, yes. But so is a \$50 Swiss Army knife compared to the \$12 pocket variety.

Getting amped up over voltage



Bob Weber
Motormouth

Q: I have a 2016 3.6-liter Cadillac with 18,000 miles. Lately, I’ve noticed that the voltage starts out at around 13-plus volts and works its way up to a little over 15 volts. It will lower a bit at stop lights. I’m experiencing no problems, but this seems to be something to check out. The car comes with an AGM battery, and I verified the dash reading matched my voltmeter. Older GM cars had a voltage regulator in the alternator, but I’m reading that some cars have the ECM control voltage. I don’t want to start throwing new parts at it before I find what’s causing this.

— WT., Rolling Meadows, Illinois

A: Historically, alternator output has topped out around 14.7 volts. That was before computer systems, which now maintain a close watch on power demand. It is normal for output to vary and to go as high as 15 volts to keep the battery at optimum levels. AGM (absorbed glass mat) batteries often need a bit more charging oomph than typical lead-acid batteries with plates. Save your money. You may need it due to inflation.

Q: I have a 2011 Dodge Charger R/T with AWD and 51,000 miles. I love this car and maintain it well. A couple of times recently during our snowy winter, I noticed that if the ABS kicks in at a stop, the brakes feel “squishy” for several minutes after that. I asked my mechanic recently to check it out. He could not reproduce the problem (of course!)



Historically, alternator output has topped out around 14.7 volts. DREAMSTIME

and inspected my brakes, saying all looked OK. Any ideas or suggestions?

— VV., Lombard, Illinois

A: If the anti-lock brake system (ABS) activates when coming to a stop, it is often a problem with one or more of the wheel speed sensors. The brake pedal may feel soft and may travel a bit farther than normal but returns to normal after a few applications.

Since you only drive about 5,000 miles a year, rust may have built up between the wheel speed sensor and the pickup disturbing the signal. But don’t rule out the possibility that ice on the road surface could be the culprit in cold weather.

Q: We recently purchased a used 2017 Jeep Cherokee for our daughter. Jeep has a system called Uconnect and Sirius/XM guardian. We called Uconnect to register her car and set up both systems. We were told that they no longer provide service to 2017 Jeeps because they are 3G and now service is provided only to vehicles with 4G or 5G. We talked to the dealership where we bought the car. They found basically the same information we did. Everything on the radio system can be used except she cannot upload

her own apps from her phone, she is unable to use nav, and we cannot get the phone app, nor can we get the Sirius/XM guardian for protection like OnStar. As it stands now the only thing we can think of is to replace the entire system with a CarPlay system.

— J.F., Cortland, Illinois

A: Cassette tapes replaced vinyl records. CDs replaced cassettes. Thumb drives replaced CDs and internet services are replacing second and third generation (2G and 3G) telephone services that are no longer supported. I believe, 3G from the last holdout (T-Mobile) won’t be supported after July 1. Yeah, it stinks. I even have a Sony Walkman that isn’t worth using as a paper-weight. As for installing CarPlay, I must defer to an infotainment expert.

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber’s work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



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WEATHER

SATURDAY






SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Thickening cloudiness with snow showers developing, breezy and much colder.

HIGH 37°
LOW 15°

SUNDAY






SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mostly sunny, breezy and very cool.

HIGH 36°
LOW 27°

MONDAY






SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Sunny and milder.

HIGH 53°
LOW 31°

TUESDAY






SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mostly cloudy with rain developing. Periods of rain overnight.

HIGH 52°
LOW 48°

WEDNESDAY







SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Morning showers ending, some late day sunshine, breezy and unseasonably mild.

HIGH 62°
LOW 28°

CONNECTICUT WEATHER

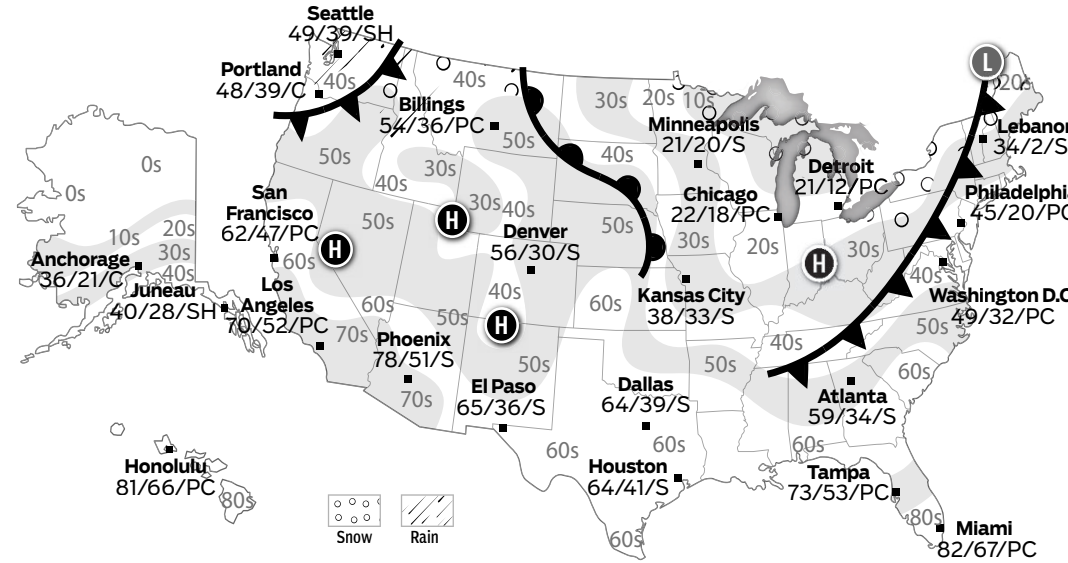
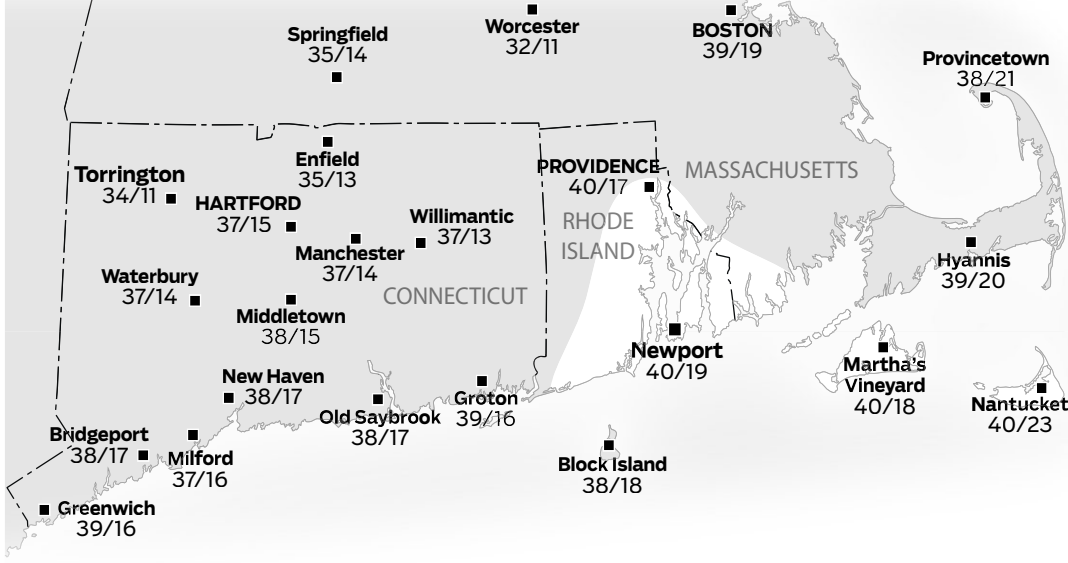
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YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



OUTLOOK

A powerful frontal system crossing the state on Friday produced strong and gusty winds which resulted in numerous power outages, especially in the eastern section of the state. Wind gust reports included: 60 mph in Groton, 57 mph in Willington, 52 mph in Bethany, 51 mph in Stony Brook, 47 mph at Lighthouse Point and Lyme, 46 mph in Willimantic, 45 mph in Clinton, 44 mph in Rockville, and 43 mph in Meriden and Fairfield. On Saturday, a cold front crossing the state will cause thickening cloudiness and breezy conditions. Afternoon snow showers and squalls are expected.

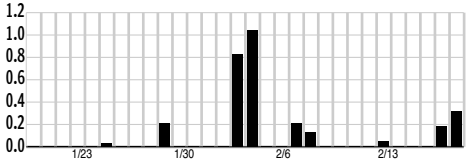
-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.50	0.12
Month to date	2.76	1.94
Total this year	4.59	5.22
Snowfall In Inches		
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0	0.5
Total this year	21.3	36.3

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

30-day Precipitation History In Inches



Air Quality Forecast For Today

Good	Low	5
17	1	5
Air Quality Today	Ultraviolet Index Today	Wind Chill Today
Today	Tomorrow	
Sunrise	6:41 a.m.	6:40 a.m.
Sunset	5:28 p.m.	5:29 p.m.
Moonrise	8:48 p.m.	9:58 p.m.
Moonset	8:24 a.m.	8:47 a.m.

Good	Low	5
17	1	5
Air Quality Today	Ultraviolet Index Today	Wind Chill Today
Today	Tomorrow	
Sunrise	6:41 a.m.	6:40 a.m.
Sunset	5:28 p.m.	5:29 p.m.
Moonrise	8:48 p.m.	9:58 p.m.
Moonset	8:24 a.m.	8:47 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Feb 23	Mar 2	Mar 10	Mar 18

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND

Bangor	29 11 C	Baltimore	48 15 PC	Nashville	48 21 S	San Juan	83 73 SH	Budapest	50 34 C	Kingston	88 72 PC	Stockholm	35 22 SF
Burlington	31 7 SF	Bismarck	42 24 PC	New Orleans	59 47 PC	Tucson	76 46 S	Lisbon	57 46 PC	Lisbon	57 46 PC	Sydney	79 66 C
Caribou	19 5 C	Boise	47 30 PC	New York	37 20 PC	Buenos Aires	88 70 C	London	48 41 SH	Madrid	52 34 SH	Tel Aviv	61 50 SH
Concord	34 6 C	Buffalo	20 11 C	Okla. City	59 38 S	Cairo	61 47 C	Mexico City	52 34 SH	Milan	69 58 C	Tokyo	48 36 SH
Montpelier	29 2 C	Charleston	63 38 S	Orlando	72 50 PC	Cancun	83 73 S	Montreal	27 1 SN	Paris	59 39 R	Toronto	25 9 SN
Mt. Wash.	8-14 SF	Cincinnati	33 15 S	Pittsburgh	33 12 SF	Dubai	82 64 S	Moscow	37 36 SN	Warsaw	43 34 SH	Vancouver	45 37 R
Portland	34 13 PC	Cleveland	20 11 C	Raleigh	60 23 S	Edinburgh	42 38 SH	Nassau	84 70 S				
Woods Hole	40 15 PC	Indianapolis	25 16 S	San Diego	67 52 PC	Helsinki	34 16 SF	New Delhi	79 57 PC				
		Jacksonville	68 41 S	Salt Lake City	54 36 S	Beirut	64 52 SH	Prague	46 37 PC				
		Las Vegas	71 47 S	San Antonio	65 43 PC	Berlin	46 37 SH	Rio de Janeiro	88 72 T				
		Miami Beach	80 70 PC	Bermuda	74 63 SH	Johannesburg	75 61 T	Seoul	37 18 C				
		Milwaukee	19 17 PC					Singapore	93 75 T				

KEY: S Sunny, C Cloudy, PC Partly Cloudy, R Rain, SH Showers, SN Snow, SF Snow Flurries, T T-storms

WORLD

Amsterdam	50 41 R	Atlanta	59/34/S	Buenos Aires	88 70 C	Cairo	61 47 C	Cancun	83 73 S	Chicago	22/18/PC	Dallas	64/39/S	Detroit	21/12/PC	Houston	64/41/S	Los Angeles	70/52/PC	Madrid	52 34 SH	Manila	82 70 S	Minneapolis	21/20/S	Moscow	37 36 SN	Mumbai	30 24 C	Nairobi	75 61 T	Paris	59 39 R	Phoenix	78/51/S	Rio de Janeiro	88 72 T	Salt Lake City	54 36 S	San Francisco	62/47/PC	Seattle	49/39/SH	Shanghai	15 10 C	Singapore	93 75 T	Tampa	73/53/PC	Tokyo	48 36 SH	Toronto	25 9 SN	Washington D.C.	49/32/PC	Yokohama	61 50 SH
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Simsbury

from Page 1

a 7-0 run and Simsbury led 45-38 with 4:43 left. Then Simsbury hit 12 of 17 free throws to end the game.

“In the end, we made sure we held on defense, tried to box our guys out, then when we got [the ball], we held strong and looked for the open man,” Riordan said. “Then we had a bunch of free throws at the end that were huge.”

Simsbury was leading Platt in the fourth quarter on Tuesday but let the lead slip away and lost 55-53.

“We had a good practice this week, and we improved what we messed up last game,” Riordan said. “We really struggled with the pressure and holding the ball too much. We did a good job of passing the ball and not dribbling too much and finding each other and cutting off it.”

Smith had three 3-pointers in the first half and 15 points and the Warhawks led 26-22 at halftime. In the last 30 seconds of the half, he stole the ball and hit a layup, then got the ball off a steal again and hit another shot to give Bloomfield the lead.

Bloomfield held the lead most of the third quarter. Shane Bell had two 3-pointers to keep the momentum going. But Simsbury owned the final



Bloomfield's Lake McLean, center, is fouled by Simsbury's Alex Pepper as Simsbury's Chris Kokines right, defends during a game at Bloomfield High School on Friday. JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

quarter.

“We took care of the ball in the second half,” Stillman said. “We were struggling

with that in the first half. Some of the guys stepped up and competed and made some plays for us in the

second half.”

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.

Drummond

from Page 1

that can protect the rim, he's good defensively and can be a presence, and offensively I think he's good at getting into actions, rolling, playing above the rim.”

“I think he fills needs that our group is looking for, and we're excited for him to continue to get more comfortable in the way we play and also really get in great shape. He's going to play more minutes for us as far as the way we project things to go.

“He's used to [playing behind Embiid, but we're

going to ask him to] play more. I think part of it is adapting to the new role.”

Drummond's presence has given much-needed support to a center tandem that has lacked the combination of size and athleticism needed to compete with today's big man.

LaMarcus Aldridge has been a scoring machine and a decent rim protector, but his struggles come switching on screens and leaping into the air. Blake Griffin's athleticism has faded and his shooting has been inefficient, so Nash has only gone to him in spurts for an energy boost.

Nic Claxton hasn't been

healthy enough to crack the rotation consistently and needs to put on some muscle to bang with big men around the rim. And Day'Ron Sharpe is still learning as a rookie. As promising as he's been, he never expected to play many minutes this season anyway.

Drummond already projects to be a game-changer for the Nets. He's athletic enough to finish alley-oops and at the rim on pick-and-rolls, he's got shot-blocking instincts to pair with that athletic ability and he's a sneaky-good passer, though decision-making remains an area for improvement.

For the Nets to play

Drummond long minutes, he's going to have to get in better shape. Once he does, the Nets might have their answer at the center spot.

“We'll see how it all pans out,” Nash said. “We've had that center by committee for a little while now and each guy has a slightly different profile. I think Andre brings a totally different look for us at center with his physicality, natural rebounding.

“We're still kind of piecing together each guy's role, how the whole of those guys fit together and how we can utilize them to the benefit of themselves and the team. And I think that's something we've still got to explore.”

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1 BASE, 3 DRINKS for a range of kick

By Rebekah Pepler
The New York Times

A drink doesn't have to be booze-forward, or make you tipsy after just one, to be cocktail-hour appropriate.

At even the smallest gatherings, it's common for one or more guests to be abstaining, or to simply want to drink less that night, month or year. And, in those cases, what's important is not the reason for guests' abstention but their comfort and inclusion. With that in mind, a versatile drinking option that works at different alcohol contents (low, none or full) can be unifying, as it lets everyone confidently raise a glass.

"A good host is prepared," said Julia Bainbridge, the author of "Good Drinks," a book of alcohol-free drink recipes, and a newsletter of the same name. "Even if you do know that all your friends coming over drink, it's still nice to have a nonalcoholic option. They might have a drink and then switch to the nonalcoholic one."

Just as some abstain from alcohol entirely, others may just want a less-potent drink. For them, low-proof spirits and liqueurs take center stage, providing enough spirited kick to usher the drink into cocktail territory, while keeping it light in impact.

While you could make something unique for each person, serving drinks with similar flavor profiles plays to the home bartender's advantage.

A simple way of doing this is to make a nonalcoholic base and build similar-enough drinks across a range of alcohol contents. Start, for example, with a shrub.

Shrubs are often called drinking vinegars for their vinegar base, but, in the early 18th century, shrubs were lemon-based, the juice mixed with sugar, then combined with brandy or rum. Because fresh citrus was expensive to import and difficult to attain, vinegar became a ready replacement, eventually surpassing the citrus-based antecedent to fashion the tangy, sweetly concentrated fruit (and,



A no-ABV, low-ABV and classic French 75. Thanks to a deeply flavored citrus shrub, this classic cocktail can be adapted for those who are drinking, want something lighter, or who are fully abstaining from alcohol. JENNY HUANG/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS

nowadays, vegetable) syrups we know today. While the vinegar base is the more commonly known shrub, the citrus-based iteration provides a brightly tart, deeply flavorful base layer that is tops for drinks across the spectrum of ABV, or alcohol by volume.

Prepare the shrub the morning of or night before, then consider your options. A no-ABV French 75 can be sweetly sour and decidedly adult when made with sweet bay-peppercorn shrub, lemon, soda water and dry tonic. An acidic, bubbly low-ABV French 75 combines blanc vermouth, shrub, lemon and Champagne. A classic French 75, full-proof and fizzy, can be made with cognac or gin. Each has a distinctive vibe, but many ingredients overlap, including that richly flavored citrus shrub (which can be served, too, on its own with a splash of soda water or tonic).

Choose two or all three, and offer them as equal-opportunity, equal-attention options — a veritable choose-your-own-adventure for the happy hour set.

Sweet bay-peppercorn shrub

Total time: 15 minutes, plus at least 6 hours' resting
Makes: 2 cups
5 medium lemons, peeled and fruit reserved
1 small grapefruit, peeled and fruit reserved
1 ¼ cups sugar
1 ½ teaspoons whole black peppercorns, crushed
1 teaspoon flaky sea salt
3 sprigs fresh thyme
3 cloves, crushed
2 bay leaves

1. Place citrus peels in medium bowl or a large jar. Add sugar, peppercorns, salt, thyme, cloves and bay leaves.
2. Use a muddler or the end of a rolling pin to muddle the mixture together, working the sugar mixture into the peels until the peels begin to express their oils and start to turn slightly translucent. Set aside at room temperature for at least 6 hours or overnight. Much of the sugar should be dissolved,



and the citrus peels will be mostly translucent.

3. Juice the reserved lemons and grapefruit. (You should have about 1 ½ cups juice.) Add the juice to the mixture and stir (or cover and shake the jar) until the sugar and salt dissolve. Strain through a fine-mesh strainer, pressing on the solids, and transfer to an airtight container. The shrub can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 1 month.

No-ABV French 75

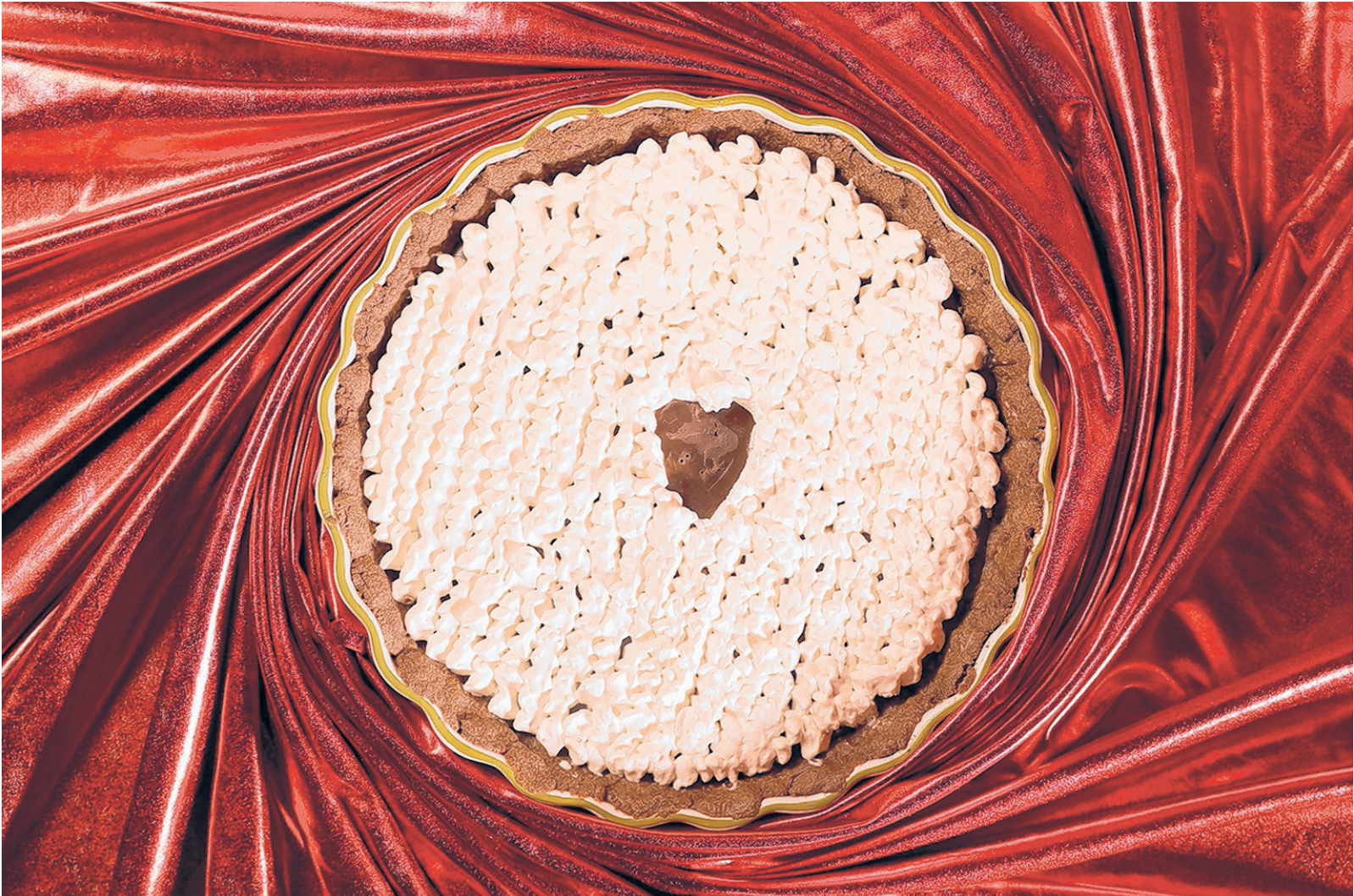
Makes: 1 cocktail
Ice
1 ounce sweet bay-peppercorn shrub
½ ounce fresh lemon juice
3 dashes orange bitters (optional; see note)
2 ounces soda water
1 ounce dry tonic water
Lemon twist
In an ice-filled cocktail shaker, combine sweet bay-peppercorn shrub, lemon juice and bitters, if using. Cover and shake until well chilled. Strain into a Nick and Nora or coupe glass, and top with soda water and tonic. Finish with the lemon twist.
Note: Most bitters have a small amount of alcohol and, while very diluted, make sure whomever you're making a drink for is OK with this addition, or skip entirely.

Low-ABV French 75

Makes: 1 cocktail
Ice (optional)
1 ounce blanc vermouth, such as Dolan or Noilly Prat
1 ounce sweet bay-peppercorn shrub
½ ounce fresh lemon juice
3 to 4 ounces Champagne or dry sparkling wine
Lemon twist
In an ice-filled shaker, combine the vermouth, shrub and lemon juice. Cover and shake vigorously until well chilled. If serving over ice, fill a Collins glass with ice and strain the cocktail into the glass. If forgoing the ice, strain into a Nick and Nora or coupe glass. Top with Champagne and finish with the lemon twist.

Classic French 75

Makes: 1 cocktail
Ice
1 ounce gin or cognac
½ ounce fresh lemon juice
½ ounce simple syrup or ½ ounce sweet bay-peppercorn shrub
3 ounces Champagne or dry sparkling wine
Lemon twist
In an ice-filled shaker, combine the gin or cognac, lemon juice and simple syrup or shrub. Cover and shake vigorously until well chilled. Strain into a Champagne or coupe glass and top with Champagne. Finish with a lemon twist.



For this chocolate tart, the malted milk lends just enough of a hint to enrich and enliven the silky smooth, chocolate filling and the crisp, cookie-like crust.
CHRISTIAN GOODEN/ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH PHOTOS

Say it with chocolate

On Valentine’s Day, calories don’t count

By Daniel Neman
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

On Valentine’s Day, chocolate is romance. On Valentine’s Day, romance is chocolate.

Either way, there is a definite mid-February correlation between love and the popular product of refined cacao beans.

This year, I made three chocolate-based dishes for my Valentine. She swooned, which is pretty much the reaction I was hoping for.

I started with an old-fashioned chocolate cake, albeit one with a newfangled addition of nearly melted chocolate chips scattered throughout. The cake was marvelously moist, courtesy of a cup of corn oil — it’s Valentine’s Day, so calories don’t matter.

It was also doubly chocolatey; the chocolate in the cake itself was enlivened with additional hits of chocolate from the chocolate chips.

And then it was hit with a triple dose of chocolate from the cocoa-based frosting around the cake and between each of the three layers.

Eating it was like being enveloped by a comforting cloud of chocolate.

But I prefer pies, so I made a tart, too — it’s the next best thing to a pie. But it wasn’t an ordinary tart. This was a malted milk chocolate tart.

It was easier than it sounds. It was also better than it sounds, even though it sounds pretty terrific.

The crust was simple to pull together: It’s just flour,

sugar, cocoa, butter and an egg yolk mixed together and pressed into a tart pan. (I’ll admit, my crust stuck pretty firmly to the pan.) And the filling was a ganache, and there is nothing easier than a ganache. You just pour hot cream over chocolate until it all blends together.

The secret ingredient is the malted milk powder. I used Ovaltine, which also goes into the whipped cream topping.

The malted milk flavor is subtle. It lends just enough of a hint to enrich and enliven the silky smooth, chocolate filling and the crisp, cookie-like crust.

I also made a chocolate coeur a la crème, which is the French version of the chocolate-romance rule. It is a cream heart, and it is light and airy and ethereal and absolutely spectacular.

There are as many ways to make coeur a la crème as there are people who know how to pronounce it. I chose a method that guarantees featheriness and delicacy.

All you do is fold whipped cream (with vanilla and powdered sugar in it) into a mixture of whipped cream cheese and melted chocolate.

The light sweetness of the whipped cream balances beautifully with the light sourness of the whipped cream cheese, and the chocolate — which is also light — ties it all together with a romantic bow.

Chocolate-dipped strawberries lend heft and substance to the dish, along with the complementary flavor of strawberry and a heartier shock of chocolate.

The coeur part of coeur a la crème means “heart,” because the dish is traditionally made in a heart-shaped mold with holes in the bottom to allow excess



Chocolate coeur a la crème

Makes: 6 servings
1 cup heavy cream
½ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
¼ cup powdered sugar
8 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
2 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped and melted
6 (6-inch) squares cheesecloth (or a 12-inch square for a large mold), dampened with water
6 (4-inch) coeur a la crème molds or 1 (8-inch) mold, see note
For the chocolate-dipped strawberries:
4 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped
12 fresh strawberries, rinsed and dried, at room temperature

Note: If you do not have a coeur a la crème mold, simply poke small holes in the bottom of 6 (3-inch) paper cups.
1. Put the cream and vanilla in a medium-size mixing bowl and beat at medium speed until soft peaks form. Add the powdered sugar and continue beating until stiff peaks form. Set aside.

2. In another medium-size mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese at medium speed until fluffy. Add the melted chocolate and beat until smooth, scraping down the sides as

needed. Fold in the whipped cream.

3. Line each mold with a square of the dampened cheesecloth. Divide the chocolate cream mixture evenly among the molds. Fold each overhanging cheesecloth over the top. Place the molds on a wire rack set on a baking sheet. Refrigerate overnight, or at least 8 hours.

4. Make the chocolate-dipped strawberries: Line a baking sheet with parchment or waxed paper. Stir the chocolate in the top of a double boiler or in a metal mixing bowl set over hot (but not simmering) water until melted and smooth. Remove from the water. Holding a strawberry by the stem or hull, dip two-thirds of it into the chocolate. Shake gently to remove the excess. Place the strawberry on the prepared baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining strawberries. (Set the chocolate over the hot water to soften if necessary while working.) Refrigerate the berries until the chocolate is firm, about 30 minutes.

5. When ready to serve, carefully remove the hearts from the molds and gently remove the cheesecloth. Serve the hearts on individual plates with the chocolate-dipped strawberries. You can make this up to several days in advance.

— Recipe by Emeril Lagasse

liquid to drain out. (No liquid at all came out of mine; I think because of the ingredients I used.)

I happen to have a coeur a la crème mold (I know, right?), but if you don’t, don’t worry. You can make

it just as easily in paper cups or other disposable items into which you have poked holes.

Old-fashioned chocolate cake with cocoa frosting

Makes: 8 to 10 servings
3 cups all-purpose flour
2 cups granulated sugar
½ cup plus 3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder, divided
2 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
2 cups cold water
1 cup corn oil
1 tablespoon plus 1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract, divided
1 ½ cups semisweet chocolate chips
10 tablespoons (1 ¼ sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
5 cups powdered sugar, divided
½ cup (about) whole milk

1. For the cake: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter and flour 3 (9-inch) cake pans. Sift flour, granulated sugar, ½ cup of the cocoa, baking soda and salt into a medium bowl. In a large bowl, mix



the cold water, corn oil and 1 tablespoon of the vanilla. Whisk in the flour mixture. Divide the batter equally among the pans (there will not be much in any of

the pans). Sprinkle ½ cup chocolate chips over the batter in each pan.

2. Bake cakes until a tester inserted into the center comes out clean, about 25

minutes (avoid putting tester in a chocolate chip; it will not come out clean even if fully baked). Cool pans on racks 15 minutes. Cut around pan sides to loosen. Turn

cakes out onto racks; cool completely.

3. For the frosting: Beat butter in large bowl until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in 3 cups of the powdered sugar. Beat in the milk and the remaining 1 ½ teaspoons vanilla. Add the remaining 3 tablespoons cocoa and the remaining 2 cups powdered sugar; beat until blended, thinning with more milk if necessary.

4. Place 1 cake layer, chocolate-chips side up, on platter. Spread ⅔ cup frosting over the layer. Top with second cake layer, chocolate-chips side up. Spread ⅔ cup frosting over. Top with remaining cake layer, chocolate-chips side down. Spread remaining frosting over sides and top of cake. Can be prepared 1 day ahead; cover with cake dome and let stand at room temperature.

— Recipe from “The Bon Appétit Cookbook” by Barbara Fairchild

Malted milk chocolate tart

Makes: 8 to 10 servings
8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
⅓ cup plus 1 tablespoon granulated sugar, divided
1 large egg yolk
1 cup all-purpose flour
2 ½ tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder, plus ½ teaspoon for dusting, optional
10 ounces milk chocolate, finely chopped
2 ounces 70% cacao bittersweet chocolate, finely chopped
2 ½ cups heavy whipping cream, divided
¼ cup plus 3 tablespoons malted milk powder, such as Ovaltine (yellow label, not chocolate-flavored), divided

1. For the crust: Place the butter and ⅓ cup of the sugar in a mixing bowl and beat on medium speed until smooth and creamy, 3 minutes. Scrape down the bowl with a spatula; if any lumps of hard butter are still visible, beat for another minute until completely blended. Add the yolk and beat well. Scrape down the bowl.

2. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour and 2 ½ tablespoons of the cocoa powder. Add to the butter mixture all at once. Mix at the lowest speed and blend just until the dough comes together; some of the clumps will still be medium and small. The dough should look moist and have a dark, uniform color. Scrape down the bowl, mixing by hand with the spatula if there are patches of flour or unincorporated butter. If the dough is too sticky, chill 15 minutes before continuing.

3. Scrape the dough clumps into a 9- or 9 ½-inch tart pan. Use the heel of your hand to press the dough into an even layer across the bottom and up the sides of the pan. Press from the center of the pan upward, building up some extra dough where the bottom meets the side. Using your thumbs, press this excess up the sides of the pan to form the walls, making sure the dough is level with the pan at the rim. Make sure there are no cracks or thin spots. Reserve any small bits of leftover dough. Chill in the refrigerator for 1 hour or 30 minutes in the freezer.

4. Bake the shell: Preheat the oven to 350 degrees and position an oven rack in the center. Bake the tart shell for 15 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven, close the oven door and check for cracks. Repair any cracks with a bit of the reserved dough. Bake 15 to 17 minutes longer; place on a rack to cool completely.

5. Prepare the filling: Combine the milk chocolate and bittersweet chocolate in a medium bowl. In a small saucepan, heat 1 cup of the cream until it just begins to boil. Remove from the heat and whisk in ½ cup plus 2 tablespoons of the malted milk powder until dissolved. Immediately pour the cream over the chocolates and let the mixture sit for 1 minute, then whisk the blend until completely combined. Pour into the cooled tart crust. Refrigerate for 1 hour, or until the filling is set and firm.

6. Finish the tart: Use a stand mixer with a whisk attachment or a hand-held mixer to whip the remaining 1 ½ cups cream, the remaining 1 tablespoon sugar and the remaining 1 tablespoon malted milk powder to medium peaks (whipping it to stiff peaks will turn it grainy; if this happens, stir in a tablespoon or two of extra cream until it smooths out). Transfer the whipped cream to a pastry bag (or plastic bag with a small hole in one corner) fitted with a tip of your choice and pipe the whipped cream across the tart. Refrigerate 30 minutes.

7. To serve, use a fine-mesh sieve to dust the top with the remaining ½ teaspoon of cocoa powder, if desired. Cut the tart with a thin, sharp knife that has been warmed in hot water and wiped dry. The tart may be kept in a refrigerator for 3 days, however the whipped cream may start to break down.

— Recipe from “The Art & Soul of Baking” by Cindy Mushet

5 of the best wineglasses money can buy

By Eric Asimov
The New York Times

For the past couple of months I’ve been drinking luxuriously. The bottles have been no different — they are the usual mix depending on regions, grapes and producers I’m curious about and articles I’m working on, with the occasional treat. But I’ve been pouring wine into five of the best wineglasses money can buy. Over most of the past decade, the top glass among wine lovers was the Zalto Denk’Art Universal, which, when I first encountered it in 2011, seemed fundamentally different and radically better than the other leading glasses. But in the past few years, several other high-end glasses have been challenging Zalto’s supremacy, which brought me to these five lead-free crystal universal glasses, each precisely designed (and marketed) to be the only glass anybody would need to drink every sort of wine. Anybody, that is, willing to pay the roughly \$60 to \$90 price per glass. Most wine drinkers, admittedly, will neither want nor need such rarefied glasses. Many casual drinkers are happy these days to use inexpensive goblets or even stemless glasses, which I would not seek out. Wine shows best in smartly shaped stemmed glasses, in which the bowl is large enough that a pour filling a quarter of the glass is generous. The bowl should be transparent, without etching or decoration, widest near the base and tapering inward to the rim to channel aromas upward. Holding the glass by the stem helps avoid finger smudges and prevents the wine from being warmed by the heat of the hand. (This is why I generally don’t care for stemless



These five lead-free crystal universal glasses were each precisely designed (and marketed) to be the only glass anybody would need to drink every sort of wine. TONY CENICOLA/THE NEW YORK TIMES

glasses.) High-end glasses are for people who care deeply about wine, who invest in their collections and drink with consideration and reverence. If wine occupies an important role in life, the choice of glasses is crucial and may demand this sort of considerable commitment. For people like this, wineglasses must be aesthetically pleasing but, above all, functional, enhancing the perception of wines that can often be subtle, nuanced and, in the case of older vintages, fragile and fleeting. Choosing wineglasses is a little like selecting a car: Even the least-expensive vehicle will get you where you want to go, but the trip is a different experience in the finest Mercedes-Benz. The five glasses I’ve been testing since November include the Zalto Universal and four competitors: the Gabriel-Glas Gold Edition; the Wine Glass, from the partnership of Jancis Robinson, a renowned British wine writer, and designer Richard Brendon; the Sensory Glass, designed by Roberto Conterno of the great Barolo producer Giacomo Conterno, in conjunction with Zwiesel Kristallglas, a German manufacturer; and the Josephine Universal from Josephinenhütte. It was designed by Kurt Josef Zalto — that Zalto — who left his eponymous company some time ago. “In order to grow faster, I made the compromise of accepting foreign investors into my company,” he told Forbes magazine in December 2020. “I was pushed out and they kept the ‘Zalto’ name.” It’s worth recalling the impact of the Zaltos when they arrived in the United States in 2010. I will always remember my first encounter in early 2011. It was at a tasting in

New York City. I believe the subject of the day was Valtellina, but in this instance, I recall the glasses better than the wine. Stemmed glasses typically have a curved bowl, with some standard variations. The two most typical are the Burgundy glass, with a big, broad bowl that tapers inward toward the top, and the Bordeaux glass, taller with a narrower bowl that likewise curves inward toward the lip. The Zalto was tall like a Bordeaux glass but rather than gently curving and arcing upward, it angled up abruptly and inward in rather a straight line. It seemed impossibly thin and light, a sensual pleasure to hold. As I swirled wine in the glass, the stem seemed to bend back and forth, delicate yet flexible and strong. Most important, the aromas and flavors of the wine presented themselves with clarity and intensity. Altogether the glass was a joy. I bought a set of six almost immediately after the tasting, not cheap at more than \$50 apiece but worth it for supplementing the conventional, serviceable Riedel Vinum Cabernet glasses that I had long been using daily at home. The arrival of the Zalto Universal filled a void left by Riedel, the leading wine-glass producer at the time. Riedel’s high-end crystal glasses were of exceptional quality, but the company made a selling point of painstakingly creating specialized glasses. Of the five I tried, the Gabriel-Glas and the Jancis were very much in the Zalto mold. The Jancis has a slightly shorter stem, and the base of the bowl was more gently rounded and narrow. The Gabriel-Glas was wider at the base of the bowl than the Zalto and more abruptly angled inward; it was also the lightest of the glasses,

almost feathery in the hand. To my eyes, the Jancis seemed the most classically beautiful. The Josephine resembled the Zalto, with a significant difference: The bowl bulged slightly around the lowest part of its circumference as if it had a circular love handle before beginning to taper toward the rim, in a gentle arc rather than the Zalto’s straight line. What’s the purpose of this unusual shape? “When the wine is agitated in the glass, the kink breaks this movement and allows the wine to flow back into the belly in a spiral motion,” a Josephinenhütte representative told me. “In doing so, it absorbs additional oxygen.” The last glass, the Conterno Sensory, was the real outlier. It was shaped like a classic Burgundy stem, shorter than the others with a much broader, rounder bowl, which tapered inward toward the rim before gently flaring upward. Spoiler alert: These are all wonderful glasses, gorgeous to look at and delightful to hold. Each was superior to the Riedel Vinum, the far cheaper and less exalted glass I’ve used at home for years. People who love wine and are willing to invest in top-end glasses have a lot of options. Josephinenhütte, like Zalto, also offers glasses designated for whites, reds and sparklers. Those with unlimited budget and space can follow the specialized Riedel route. If you believe in the philosophy of one great glass for all wines, as I do, you won’t go wrong with any of these five glasses. I suspect many will find their own subjective reasons to embrace one of them. They all made me happy, but I am glad I invested in those Zaltos 11 years ago. I think they are still hard to beat.



I asked what kind of family Amina wanted. She said, ‘A family like yours.’ That’s when I knew I had to adopt her.

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina



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You don't need a party for shrimp cocktail

By Eric Kim
The New York Times

For his birthday, Montreal chef Fred Morin wanted to fulfill a childhood fantasy: designing his own shrimp cocktail-themed ice cream cake at Baskin-Robbins. In his mind, the cake resembles a party ring of shrimp, complete with faux red cocktail sauce.

Morin said that as a child, “the reason you wanted to get a job was to buy more ice cream cakes, shrimp rings and Hot Wheel cars.”

Sometimes as an adult, you still just want a lot of a really good thing.

Reserved for special occasions, , shrimp cocktail is arguably on the top five list of really good things. And when you make it at home, you can eat as much of it as you want — maybe even a whole party plate.

If you’ve ever tried to down an entire 32-ounce platter of shrimp cocktail from Costco by yourself, you know that it can be difficult.

What is it about shrimp cocktail that makes us want to eat more of it than is humanly necessary?

Maybe it’s that it feels like a celebration even when celebrating feels uncertain.

Maybe it’s that eating lots of shrimp cocktail is a dream deferred: When you order it at a restaurant, you often get a lousy portion of only four or five shrimp. Making it in your own kitchen allows you to fulfill that fantasy of eating six, 10 or even 20 in one sitting.

When you’re eating that much shrimp — and even when you’re not — it’s essential that they be perfectly cooked.

This recipe prevents the shrimp from cooking to a tough, rubbery state and maximizes flavor by gently poaching them in a deeply seasoned broth of salt, chile powder and celery seed.



These plump, gently poached shrimp come with a trio of sauces: classic cocktail, garlicky dill butter and curried honey mustard.
BEATRIZ DA COSTA/ THE NEW YORK TIMES

Rather than washing away all that seasoning by draining the shrimp and plunging them into a bath of ice and water, here you stop the cooking by adding ice directly to the broth, a method that chef and cookbook author Molly Baz landed on while creating a shrimp cocktail recipe for Bon Appétit in 2018.

When it comes to dipping sauces, the world is your crustacean.

Go for a classic cocktail sauce with the sharp brightness of lemon and horseradish. Or prepare a simple garlicky dill butter, which makes the shrimp taste somehow of lobster. Better yet, reach for a comforting, warmly spiced honey mustard, because you always need a creamy option.

One sauce is grand, but three is a party — even if you’re eating the whole plate on your own.

Shrimp cocktail

Makes: 8 servings
Total time: 15 minutes

For the shrimp:
2 pounds large (21- to 25-count) shrimp, shelled and deveined
Kosher salt
8 cups ice cubes (about 2 pounds), plus more for serving
¼ cup mild red chile powder, gochugaru or sweet paprika with a dash of ground cayenne
1 tablespoon celery seeds
2 lemons
For the cocktail sauce:
½ cup ketchup
3 tablespoons lemon juice
2 tablespoons prepared horseradish
1 large garlic clove, finely grated
Kosher salt and black pepper
Tabasco sauce
For the garlicky dill butter:
½ cup unsalted butter
2 large garlic cloves
¼ packed cup finely chopped fresh dill (from 1 small bunch)
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 teaspoon sugar
Kosher salt and black pepper

For the curried honey mustard:
¼ cup mayonnaise
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
2 tablespoons honey
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 teaspoon curry powder
½ teaspoon ground cayenne
Kosher salt and black pepper
1. Make the shrimp: In a large bowl, toss together the shrimp and 2 teaspoons salt, and set aside. Keep the 8 cups ice nearby, either in another large bowl or directly in the icemaker tray of your refrigerator.
2. Meanwhile, fill a large pot with 8 cups water, ½ cup salt, the chile powder and celery seeds, and bring to a boil. Remove the pot from the heat and add the shrimp to the hot liquid, stirring occasionally, until just cooked through and no longer translucent on the inside, 2 to 3 minutes.
3. Immediately dump the ice into the pot to stop the cooking, stirring occasionally, until the liquid is cool to warm or room temperature, about 1 minute. Pour the contents of the pot into a colander in the sink, then transfer the drained, celery seed-dotted shrimp to a large platter and refrigerate until ready to eat. Cut the

lemons into quarters lengthwise, then cut each piece in half crosswise.
4. Make the cocktail sauce: In a small bowl, stir the ketchup, lemon juice, horseradish and garlic to combine, and season to taste with salt, pepper and Tabasco sauce.
5. Make the garlicky dill butter: Melt the butter in a small saucepan over medium-low heat or in the microwave. Add the garlic, dill, lemon juice and sugar to a small bowl and stir in the hot melted butter. Season generously with salt and pepper.
6. Make the curried honey mustard: In a small bowl, stir the mayonnaise, mustard, honey, lemon juice, curry powder and cayenne to combine. Season to taste with salt and pepper. All three sauces can be stored in separate airtight containers in the refrigerator for up to 3 days. (The dill butter will need to be reheated in the microwave or on the stove over medium-low heat until liquid again.)
7. To serve, cover a large platter with cubed or crushed ice, top with the poached and cooled shrimp and scatter the lemon pieces all over. Serve with one or more of the dipping sauces on the side.



Whipped egg whites add volume to these cookies. **SCOTT MORGAN/EATINGWELL**

Enjoy a sweet homemade treat this Valentine's Day

By Hilary Meyer | EatingWell

These flourless cookies get their volume from whipped egg whites (like a meringue) instead of grains, making them gluten-free and melt-in-your-mouth delicious. A chocolate chip in each bite adds to the rich chocolate flavor.

Flourless chocolate cookies

Makes: 16 cookies
Active time: 15 minutes
Total time: 40 minutes
1 cup confectioners' sugar
¼ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
½ teaspoon salt
2 large egg whites
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
½ cup bittersweet chocolate chips or chunks, chopped
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line 2 large baking sheets with parchment paper. Coat the paper with cooking spray.
2. Combine confectioners' sugar, cocoa and salt in a medium bowl. Beat egg whites in a large mixing bowl with an electric mixer

until soft peaks form. Add vanilla. Fold in the cocoa mixture with a rubber spatula until combined. Fold in chocolate chips (or chunks).
3. Drop the batter by tablespoonfuls onto the prepared baking sheets, leaving about 2 inches between each cookie. Bake, one sheet at a time, until the cookies are just beginning to crack on top, 12 to 14 minutes. Let cool slightly on the pan before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.
Recipe nutrition per serving: 74 calories, total fat: 2 g, saturated fat: 1 g, cholesterol: 1 mg, carbohydrates: 13 g, fiber: 1 g, total sugars: 11 g, protein: 1 g, sodium: 27 mg, potassium: 68 mg, phosphorus: 26 mg, iron: 1 mg, folate: 1 mcg, calcium: 6 mg, vitamin A: 3 IU, vitamin C: 0 mg, vitamin D: 0 IU

SERIOUSLY SIMPLE

Fresh pasta with mushroom sauce helps bring out the love

By Diane Rossen
Worthington
Tribune Content Agency

Valentine's Day can sometimes be a challenge for the cook. Do I do a three-course dinner with a rich chocolate dessert or a one-dish favorite that respects the season and feels celebratory? This year, I will be reintroducing a former tradition: fresh pasta in a rich, velvety mushroom sauce. I love that it is full of an earthy, almost meaty flavor and is satisfying as a main course

The growth of the California mushroom industry in recent years has been truly striking. We now have varieties of all the world's great fungi, from Japan's shiitake and shimeji oyster mushrooms, to the famous French varieties: morels and chanterelles. And recently the first black truffle was harvested in Sonoma.

Use whatever seasonal mushrooms you can obtain, since the real excitement in this recipe comes from the mixture of fresh mushrooms. Most



The addition of whipping cream gives the mushroom sauce a richer consistency and taste. **DREAMSTIME**

markets have fresh pasta. I think it adds a delicate note to this dish.

Sometimes I add an ounce of dried porcini or morel mushrooms for an even richer mushroom flavor. If you want to do this, pour boiling water over the dried mushrooms, and let them soften. Once softened, drain them through a fine strainer to remove any grit, coarsely chop them and then add them to the mushroom sauce. You can add the mushroom liquid to the sauce.

Begin your meal with a simple green salad with slices of red radishes and bright red cherry tomatoes. For dessert, how about your favorite store-bought brownies, topped with coffee ice cream and a drizzle of hot fudge sauce?

This is what I'll be doing to celebrate Valentine's Day with my husband. And remember, this can be a day to celebrate your love with a dear friend, sibling, child or even your parents, I think of it as a day to celebrate love in whatever way you like.

Pasta with fresh mushroom sauce

Makes: 2 to 3 servings as main course or 4 to 6 servings as first course
For the sauce:
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 tablespoon olive oil
3 medium shallots, finely minced
¼ pound fresh oyster mushrooms, sliced
¼ pound fresh chanterelle mushrooms, sliced
¼ pound fresh shiitake mushrooms, sliced
¼ pound regular white mushrooms, sliced
2 tablespoons tawny port
½ cup chicken or veal stock
½ cup whipping cream (optional; see Note)
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon finely ground pepper
For the pasta:
1 teaspoon salt
¾ pound fresh pasta, cut into tagliatelle, linguine or angel hair noodles

To garnish:
½ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
For the sauce:
1. In a deep large saucepan, heat butter and oil until foaming. Add shallots and all mushrooms and saute, stirring occasionally, 3 to 5 minutes or until slightly brown.
2. Add port, stock and, if desired, cream. Simmer until slightly thickened, about 3 to 5 minutes. Add salt and pepper. Taste for seasoning.
For the pasta:
1. Add salt to large pot of boiling water. Add pasta and cook over high heat until al dente. Fresh pasta cooks quickly so watch carefully. It should take about 3 minutes. Drain well.
2. Toss hot pasta with mushroom sauce in pan with sauce and make sure pasta is well coated with the sauce. Transfer to individual pasta serving bowls and serve immediately. Pass Parmesan cheese separately.
Note: Cream gives a richer consistency and taste, but it is not necessary.